

## Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) Website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel:582-7800 Saturday, January 8, 2011

### 3rd package ignites at Washington postal facility



The Maryland Department of Transport headquarters are pictured in Hanover, Maryland, in this still image taken from a video released on January 6, 2011. Two packages detonated in the mailrooms of two Maryland state government buildings, including the transport headquarters building, on Thursday, but no one was seriously injured, officials said. Investigators had yet to identify a suspect or make any arrests, a Maryland state official said.

By JESSICA GRESKO  
BEN NUCKOLS,

Associated Press

WASHINGTON – An official says the D.C. package that ignited at a postal facility was addressed to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

The department official spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because it was an ongoing investigation.

The package at the D.C. facility ignited a day after fiery packages were sent to Maryland's governor and transportation secretary burned the fingers of workers who opened them.

Initial information indicates all of the parcels are similar. The Washington postal facility was evacuated and no injuries were reported.

The Maryland packages contained a note railing against highway signs urging motorists to report suspicious activity. □

### Mass bird, fish deaths occur regularly

WASHINGTON – First, the blackbirds fell out of the sky on New Year's Eve in Arkansas. In recent days, wildlife have mysteriously died in big numbers: 2 million fish in the Chesapeake Bay, 150 tons of red tilapia in Vietnam, 40,000 crabs in Britain and other places across the world. Blogs connected the deadly dots, joking about the "aflockalypse" while others saw real signs of something sinister, either biblical or environmental.

The reality, say biologists, is that these mass die-offs happen all the time and usually are unrelated.

Federal records show they happen on average every other day somewhere in North America. Usually, we don't notice them and don't try to link them to each other. "They generally fly under the radar," said ornithologist John Wiens, chief scientist at the California research institution PRBO Conservation Science.

*Continued on Next Page*

### OFFERING INCENTIVES

*Darfur integral to better U.S.-Sudan ties*

In this photo released by UNAMID, U.S. Sen. John Kerry speaks to UNAMID peacekeepers Friday, Jan. 7, 2011 as he visits displaced persons in Shangil Tobayi village, where they were forced to flee to by recent clashes between government forces and rebel groups, in north Darfur, Sudan. Kerry says Khartoum will win quick U.S. incentives if an independence referendum in the south goes smoothly, but further improvement of ties depends on progress toward peace in the separate conflict in Darfur.

Associated Press  
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# Mass bird, fish deaths occur regularly



**Continued from Front Page**  
Since the 1970s, the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Wisconsin has tracked mass deaths among birds, fish and other critters, said wildlife disease specialist LeAnn White. At times the sky and

the streams just turn deadly. Sometimes it's disease, sometimes pollution. Other times it's just a mystery. In the past eight months, the USGS has logged 95 mass wildlife die-offs in North America and that's probably a dramatic undercount, White

said. The list includes 900 some turkey vultures that seemed to drown and starve in the Florida Keys, 4,300 ducks killed by parasites in Minnesota, 1,500 salamanders done in by a virus in Idaho, 2,000 bats that died of rabies in Texas, and the still mysterious

death of 2,750 sea birds in California.

On average, 163 such events are reported to the federal government each year, according to USGS records. And there have been much larger die-offs than the 3,000 blackbirds in Arkansas. Twice in the summer of 1996, more than 100,000 ducks died of botulism in Canada. "Depending on the species, these things don't even get reported," White said.

Weather cold and wet weather like in Arkansas New Year's Eve when the birds fell out of the sky is often associated with mass bird deaths, ornithologists say. Pollution, parasites and disease also cause mass deaths. Some are even blaming fireworks for the blackbird deaths.

So what's happening this time? Blame technology, says famed Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson. With the Internet, cell phones and worldwide

communications, people are noticing events, connecting the dots more.

"This instant and global communication, it's just a human instinct to read mystery and portents of dangers and wondrous things in events that are unusual," Wilson told The Associated Press on Thursday. "Not to worry, these are not portents that the world is about to come to an end."

Wilson and the others say instant communications "especially when people can whip out smart phones to take pictures of critter carcasses and then post them on the Internet" is giving a skewed view of what is happening in the environment.

The irony is that mass die-offs usually of animals with large populations are getting the attention while a larger but slower mass extinction of thousands of species because of human activity is ignored, Wilson said. □

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# Winter storm bringing more snow to blizzard-weary North

NEW YORK — Snow fell across the mid-Atlantic and Northeast states on Friday, bringing several inches of fresh accumulation to a region that has scarcely dug out from the Christmas weekend blizzard.

The latest winter storm will drop snow from the Great Lakes east to the Atlantic seaboard and New England throughout Friday and into early Saturday, forecasters said.

The Northeast could see one to five inches of snow from Maryland north into Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut, forecasters said. Two to four inches accumulation was likely in New York City, they said.

One to three inches were forecast for Philadelphia, Wilmington and Atlantic City, according to Accuweather.com.

Accuweather.com senior meteorologist Alex Sosnowski said Northeast weather would feature “a great deal of little storm systems or disturbances running around through the weekend.”

“Pretty much anybody in the Northeast is fair game for a sneak attack from a coating of snow into Sunday,” he said. “It is almost like atmospheric guerrilla warfare.”

While not as powerful as the late December blast, this storm was snarling travel, with delays of nearly three hours inbound for LaGuardia and John F. Kennedy International airports and slightly less at Newark Liberty International. Further west, snow showers swept across southwestern Pennsylvania overnight.

“I couldn’t get my car out of my driveway this morning,” said Robert Kimble, a construction worker waiting

for a bus in Pittsburgh. “Too much snow.”

The storm was not likely to approach the scale of the Christmas weekend blizzard, however, which pummeled the mid-Atlantic and Northeast. That storm dropped some 20 inches of snow in New York City, where many streets went unplowed for days and trains, buses and subways ground to a halt.

A federal and several local investigations have been launched to determine why the cleanup was slow and inefficient, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg has vowed the city will be better prepared and more efficient this time around.

On Tuesday or Wednesday, a big coastal storm was likely to arrive off the East Coast, the National Weather Service said. The South will get its latest wintry blast over the weekend, said Mark Avery, lead meteorologist for The Weather Channel, with “some significant snow accumulations.”

“The wintry side of this storm will really begin to show up on Sunday,” Avery said. “Snow is expected from Arkansas into the western Carolinas, with accumulating snow possible in northern parts of Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina.” A winter storm was expected as well over the central Plains,



with snow in Wyoming, Montana, the Dakotas and Nebraska, moving east toward Missouri, forecasters said.

In the West, dense fog and smog plagued the Wasatch Front in heavily populated areas of Utah on Friday.

“It’s been a problem most of the week, the smog, patchy dense fog in the lower valleys,” said meteorologist Mike Conger with the National Weather Service in Salt Lake City.

Snow was accumulating in northern Utah, and a cold front was aiming for the state as well, which should bring some relief in terms of the air quality, officials said.

In Washington state, a cold front was blowing in from the Pacific Ocean. Three to four inches of new snow were

anticipated at Snoqualmie Pass, a thoroughfare to Seattle from eastern Washington, on Friday. □



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# U.S. warns stores for selling cigarettes to minors



WASHINGTON – Health officials have warned 25 Mississippi convenience stores to stop illegally selling cigarettes to minors, exercising for the first time new federal powers over sales to people under age 18. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration said on Friday it sent the stores warning letters for failing to check picture identification and selling cigarettes to minors after inspections in November

uncovered the illegal sales. The agency, which began regulating tobacco products under a 2009 law, told the stores to prevent future sales to minors or face possible penalties that could include fines, a ban on selling tobacco products and product seizures. The FDA's move is the latest sign that federal regulators are actively using new powers given to them under the law. It also puts retailers nationwide on notice to expect tougher scrutiny.

"If inspectors identify violations, the FDA will take swift actions to protect young people," Lawrence Deyton, head of the FDA's new tobacco center, said in a statement. Mississippi is one of 15 states using state inspectors to conduct such FDA investigations. This year, the FDA plans to expand the partnership to all 50 states. Cigarette sales to minors have long been illegal. Still, more than a quarter of children and teenagers have tried or used

cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and other similar products, according to government statistics.

The FDA announcement regarding the convenience stores came two days after the agency said cigarette makers must provide regulators with detailed information about the ingredients and design of products they have introduced or changed since early 2007 or face possible penalties.

Under the 2009 law, which won bipartisan support in Congress, FDA gained wide power for the first time over cigarettes and other tobacco products, allowing it to regulate manufacturing and ingredients as well as sales and marketing.

The FDA sent the warning letters, dated December 29 and made public on Friday, mostly to stores at gas stations as well as other convenience stores and delis. The letters were posted on the FDA's website at <http://link.reuters.com/qus35r>. □



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# Kentucky legislature weighs ultrasound abortion requirement

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky – A bill requiring any woman seeking an abortion to be shown an ultrasound image of her fetus is expected to go to Kentucky's house of representatives next month, a legislative spokesman said on Friday.

The bill, which cleared the state senate on Thursday, also requires that information about abortion be given to the woman at a face-to-face meeting the day before the procedure. A similar measure failed in a committee of the Democratic-controlled house last year.

No senate-passed bills will be introduced in the house until after lawmakers return to the capital in Frankfort February 1, said Brian Wilkerson, a spokesman for house speaker Greg Stumbo.

"They won't be in our chamber officially until February," Wilkerson said.

Even then, the House will consider its own bills first, so no action on the bill would be likely until close to the end of this year's legislative session in early March, Wilkerson said.

Over the past 10 years, several states have tried to make ultrasound part of providing abortion services, and 18 states regulate the provision of ultrasound by abortion providers, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a reproductive health think tank.

An Oklahoma law requiring providers to perform an ultrasound before the procedure and to display and describe the image to the woman is currently not enforced due to a court case. □



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# Florida governor says he's not trying to expand gambling

TALLAHASSEE — Florida's new governor on Friday denied he was actively trying to lure multibillion dollar gambling projects to the fiscally pressed state, despite having held recent talks with major casino owners.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott, who swept into office in November on a pro-business background and promises of job creation, said his views on gambling in Florida haven't changed.

A Miami Herald newspaper story quoted him as saying he may be amenable to expanding gambling in America's fourth largest state, which faces a \$3.5 billion budget gap and already allows gambling at Indian casinos and at non-Indian facilities in southern Florida.

Speaking to reporters at his first scheduled press conference as governor, Scott acknowledged he had met with Las Vegas Sands owner Sheldon Adelson in November as he was enroute to the Republican Governor's Association meeting in San Diego. He said however that he's made no decision on any expansion of gambling.

"My view on gaming is, I don't want the state to be largely dependent on gaming for revenues," Scott said. "We've allowed gaming in the state today. And I haven't taken any position on doing anything different with gaming."

Gambling has been a hot button issue on Florida for years.

Last year, representatives from the Sands made a presentation to Florida lawmakers on mega developments that would include casinos, entertainment, shopping and other amenities to lure travelers.

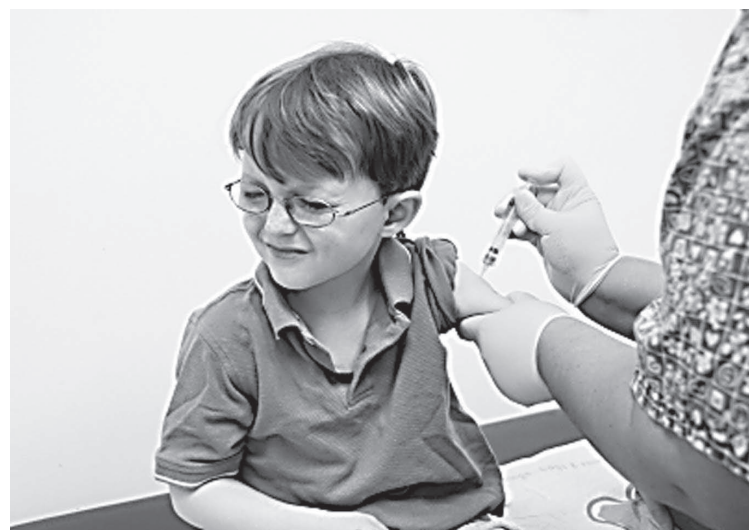
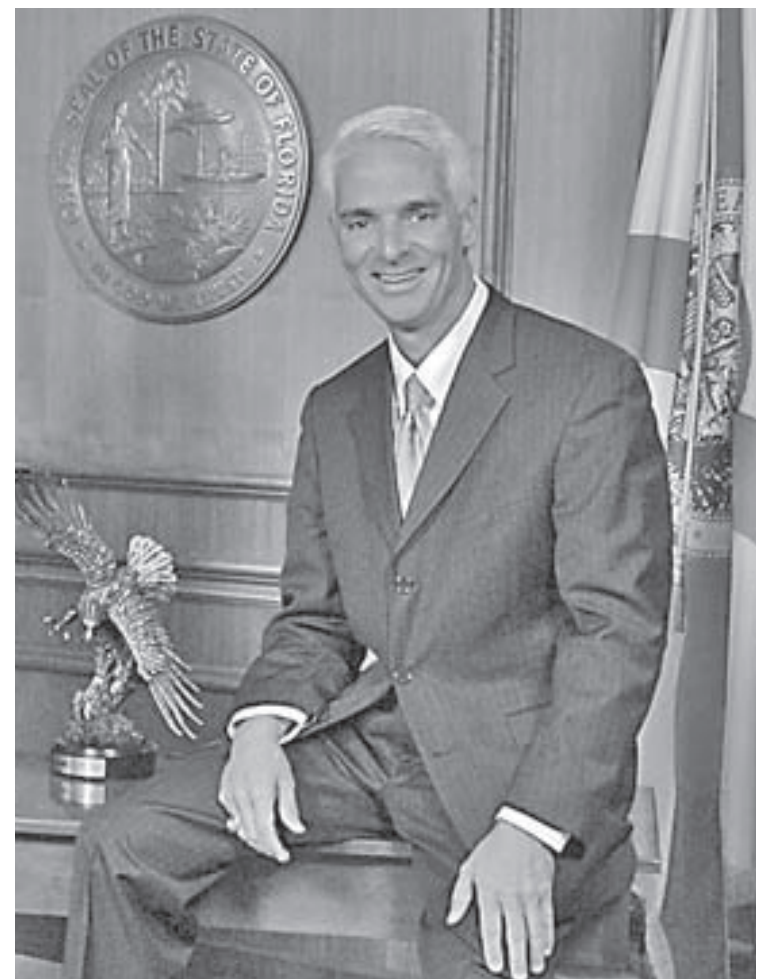
Legislative economists estimated the state could receive anywhere from \$435 million to \$750 million per license based on what has occurred in other states.

The presentation received a lukewarm reception in the Florida House, key members of which have been especially cool to any expansion of gaming across the state.

Also last year, the state entered into a gambling compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida that calls for revenue sharing, generating nearly \$1.5 billion for the state over the first five years of the deal.

In exchange, the tribe has exclusive rights to blackjack, high-stakes slot machines and other banked card games at casinos in South Florida and Tampa. Any deal to expand gaming beyond what is already on the books would break the compact.

"I haven't made any decision on expansion," Scott said when pressed again Friday. □



NASHVILLE, Tennessee, a state best known for country music, is first in the nation in providing early childhood immunizations, according to a national health ranking report. "No child should suffer from something that is preventable,"

said Dr. Kelly Moore, medical director for the Tennessee Immunization Program, in an interview on Thursday.

America's Health Rankings put Tennessee first for 2010 for immunizing children ages 19-35 months.

## Tennessee tops states in child immunization rate

AHR looked at four vaccines for its rankings: polio; the DtaP vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis; the MMR vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella, and the hepatitis B vaccine. Tennessee had 94.1 percent coverage, just ahead of Connecticut.

Arkansas ranked last, with 83.7 percent coverage, AHR reported.

Moore said fighting bad information, like studies by a now-disgraced British doctor who linked vaccines with autism, is a major hurdle in getting children vaccinated.

"Parents need to know that they are not putting their

children at risk because of vaccinations," said Moore. "No parent of an autistic child should be burdened with that kind of guilt."

The British Medical Journal said on Wednesday that Dr. Andrew Wakefield, who published the autism studies, committed an "elaborate fraud" by faking data.

Moore said Tennessee is a national leader in vaccine storage, and that the program has grown its immunization staff to 19 from 4 in the last five years. The program also shifted its focus from administration to proactive education, including running immunization training

and clinics for health-care providers across the state. The program works with other states and the Centers for Disease Control to share Tennessee's methods.

America's Health Ranking used a different methodology this year, so this year's numbers cannot be directly compared with prior year's. But using the same methodology to look at past years, Tennessee has shown a steady improvement, from 3rd in 2005 to 16th in 2008 to first in 2010, Moore said.

Tennessee ranks 2nd overall in health by AH, which cited its high violent crime rate and high prevalence of obesity. □



# Banks lose key foreclosure case in top Mass. Court



NEW YORK – In a decision that may affect foreclosures nationwide, Massachusetts' highest court voided the seizure of two homes by Wells Fargo & Co and U.S. Bancorp after the banks failed to show they held the mortgages at the time they foreclosed.

Bank shares fell, dragging down the broader stock market, after the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts on Friday issued its decision, which upheld a lower court ruling.

The unanimous decision is among the earliest to address the validity of foreclosures done without proper documentation. That issue last year prompted an uproar that led lenders such as Bank of America Corp, JPMorgan Chase & Co and Ally Financial Inc to temporarily stop seizing homes.

"A ruling like this will slow

down the foreclosure process" for banks, said Marty Mosby, an analyst at Guggenheim Securities. "They're going to have to be really precise and get everything in order. It doesn't leave a lot of wiggle room."

Wells Fargo and U.S. Bancorp lacked authority to foreclose after having "failed to make the required showing that they were the holders of the mortgages at the time of foreclosure," Justice Ralph Gants wrote for the Massachusetts court.

In a concurring opinion, Justice Robert Cordy lambasted "the utter carelessness" that the banks demonstrated in documenting their right to own the properties.

Courts in other U.S. states are considering similar cases, and all 50 state attorneys general are examining whether lenders are forcing people out of their

homes improperly.

Friday's ruling "will be certainly cited as persuasive authority by anybody in a similar scenario who's trying to hold onto his home," said Robert Nislick, a real estate lawyer at Marcus, Errico, Emmer & Brooks PC in Braintree, Massachusetts.

## LEAVING PAPERWORK BEHIND

Analysts said the decision may also threaten banks' ability to package mortgages into securities, and may raise the specter that loans transferred improperly will need to be bought back.

"What they were doing was peddling these mortgages and leaving the paperwork behind," said Michael Pill, a partner at Green, Miles, Lipton & Fitz-Gibbon LLP in Northampton, Massachusetts, who represents homeowners and is not involved in the case. A spokeswoman for San Francisco-based Wells Fargo, Teri Schrettenbrunner, had no immediate comment on the decision.

U.S. Bancorp spokesman Steve Dale said the decision has no financial impact on the Minneapolis-based bank, which has "no responsibility" for the terms or means of transfer of mortgages used in the securitization trusts it oversees as trustee.

In afternoon trading, Wells Fargo shares were down 3.4 percent at \$31.06, while U.S. Bancorp shares were down 1.1 percent at \$25.99.

Bank of America stock was down 1.9 percent, JPMorgan fell 2.9 percent, and the KBW Bank Index, which includes all four lenders, was down 1.6 percent. Major U.S. stock indexes were down 0.4 percent to 0.7 percent.

## NOT IMMUNE

In the Massachusetts case, U.S. Bancorp and Wells Fargo had said they controlled through different trusts the respective mortgages of Antonio Ibanez and the married couple Mark and Tammy LaRaca, who lost their homes to foreclosure in 2007. The banks bought the Springfield, Massachusetts, homes in foreclosure, and sought court orders confirming they had title. A lower court judge ruled against them in March 2009, and Friday's decision upheld this ruling. Massachusetts is one of 27 U.S. states that do not require court approval to foreclose.

"It is the first time the supreme court of a state has looked straight at securitization practices and told the industry, you are not immune from state statutes and homeowner protections," Paul Collier, a lawyer for Ibanez, said in an interview.

The Supreme Judicial Court also rejected the banks' request that the ruling apply only in the future, leaving homeowners who had already been foreclosed upon without a remedy.

"I'm ecstatic," Glenn Russell, a lawyer for the LaRaces, said in an interview. "The fact the decision applies retroactively could mean thousands of homeowners can seek recovery for homes wrongfully foreclosed upon." Russell said the LaRaces moved back to their home after the 2009 ruling, while Collier said Ibanez has not. "U.S. Bancorp will have to compensate him in exchange for the deed, or will have to walk away," Collier said.

## SECURITIZATION

Analysts said the decision will make it harder and more costly for banks to foreclose, and weigh on their share prices and perhaps even the nation's economic recovery.

"If banks can't prove ownership, it will clog up the foreclosure process," said Blake Howells, head of equity research at Becker Capital Management in Portland, Oregon. "The inventory on foreclosures will keep a lid on housing prices for some time." Gants did suggest in his opinion how banks might properly transfer mortgages via securitization trusts.

"The executed agreement that assigns the pool of mortgages, with a schedule of the pooled mortgage loans that clearly and specifically identifies the mortgage at issue as among those assigned, may suffice to establish the trustee as the mortgage holder," Gants wrote. "However, there must be proof that the assignment was made by a party that itself held the mortgage." □

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### *Introduction of the Dollar*

**De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Ministry of Finance are jointly responsible.**

Asper 1 January 2011, DNB will take over responsibility from the Bank of the Netherlands Antilles for ensuring a smooth operation of the payments system. DNB will ensure that the banks begin their preparations for the introduction of the dollar in good time. They will have to adjust their administrative and IT systems so that you can transfer money in dollars without problems starting from 1 January 2011. DNB will also ensure that there are enough coins and bank notes in circulation.

#### **THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE ISLAND TERRITORIES**

The island territories of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba are jointly responsible with the Dutch Ministry of Finance for advising citizens and businesses. The Ministry of Finance will take the leading role in the information campaign.

The island territories are responsible for implementing measures to counter sharp increases in prices as a consequence of the dollar's introduction.

Ministry of Finance De Nederlandsche Bank Bureau Omwisseling BESbob@dnb.nl www.dnb.nl the dollar, as their currency. Opting for the euro would have exposed Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba to a large exchange rate risk. Any increase in the value of the euro would make it more difficult to export and to attract tourists.

*Continued on Page A11*

## **Second National Boa Constrictor sweep**

*9 January 2011*



The Second National Boa Constrictor sweep is planned for January 9th, 2011.

This boa constrictor capturing activity will take place in the Colony from 8:00 to 11:00 A.M. The meeting point is next to the large Valero sign. On January 5th, 2011, a training session will be held at the Centro di Barrio Lago Heights from 8:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Volunteers are invited to participate at this second sweep and are requested to register at [boa.taskforce@gmail.com](mailto:boa.taskforce@gmail.com). Questions may also be sent to this email address.

The Boa Constrictor Taskforce was instated by the Minister of Integration, Infrastructure and Environment, Mr. Bennie Sevinger, in an effort to keep the numbers of boas in Aruba's nature as low as possible.

The Boa Constrictor is an invasive species and forms a serious threat to Aruba's fauna. A conservative estimation illustrates that more than 17.000 birds were consumed island wide in 2010 by the boa.

The first national sweep was held on December 12th, 2010. More than 120 volunteers participated in this national event. The taskforce is very happy with such a large turn-out, but still hopes that the numbers of volunteers at national sweeps will increase.

During the boa training session planned on January 5th, instructions will be given about how to identify the different snake species in Aruba's wildlife and how to capture a boa in a very easy way. □





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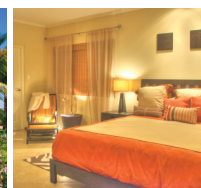


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PALM BEACH -. The Stellaris Casino continues to celebrate the relaunch of the casino with an entire week of promotions starting upcoming Monday January 10th with a final event on Saturday January 15th.

In less than two months the casino has transformed into a contemporary casino with a modern look and feel, suiting with the \$50 million dollar makeover of the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino. The complete interior has changed, from the carpet and wallpaper, to the bathrooms and the lounge bar area.

To celebrate the Stellaris' makeover, from Monday to Friday the casino offers a different promotions with chance to win \$11,000.00 in total prizes. To participate in any of these promotions players receive four tickets daily complimentary.

V.i.p. casino players with a player's card visiting the casino frequently will accumulate double tickets for the final drawing on Saturday January 15th. In addition,

every day the casino will select two winners from the raffle drum to receive a dinner for two at Marriott's La Vista restaurant. These winners will participate as well for the grand prize. Daily new participants have a chance to win as the drum will be emptied at the end of the night.

The calendar of events starts on Monday January 10th with "Pop to win" promotion. Twelve lucky names will be selected from the computer between 9:00 and 11:00 pm and have the chance to pop a balloon for prizes. On Tuesday, the casino honors loyal local clients with a "Local appreciation night" between 11:00 pm with nice give-aways prizes.

"Your magic box" promo will take place on Wednesday, where twelve chosen participants have the chance to choose a surprise box with a cash prizes. On Thursday, join Stellaris for the "7 away - line away" promotion. Nine names will be called where the participant have a chance to win prizes by throwing dices.

And to get into the carnival mood Stellaris Casino presents carnival night on Friday where participants called have 30 seconds to collect as many envelopes as possible in a hidden box. The cash amounts in the envelopes collected after 30 seconds will determine the final prize of the participants.

On Saturday January 15th the Stellaris Casino invites you to conclude the festive week of promotions with the "board of fortune promotion" with a total \$15,888.00 dollars in cash prizes. Between 9:00 and 10:00 pm, names will be drawn from the drum for cash prizes.

On 11:00 pm, ten qualifiers from previous nights plus five new names will be announced to participate for the big prizes on the "board of fortune".

Stellaris Casino would like to invite everyone to celebrate the reopening of the brand new casino and have a chance to win a total of \$15,888.00 in cash prizes on Saturday January 15, 2011. □



# William & Beulah Feagan honored at the Bucuti Beach Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Bucuti Beach Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special

friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring were effected by

the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Bucuti Beach Resort, where they call their home away from home. William & Beulah Feagan were honored as Distinguished Visitors after visiting Aruba for 10 years.



Pictured: ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with honorees and also Miss Deborah from the Bucuti Beach Resort. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood! Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

### Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

### Rates:

\$360 - 1/2 day  
\$720- full day  
Rates per boat  
Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

### Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

## Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

Tel: (297) 583 2515

[www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

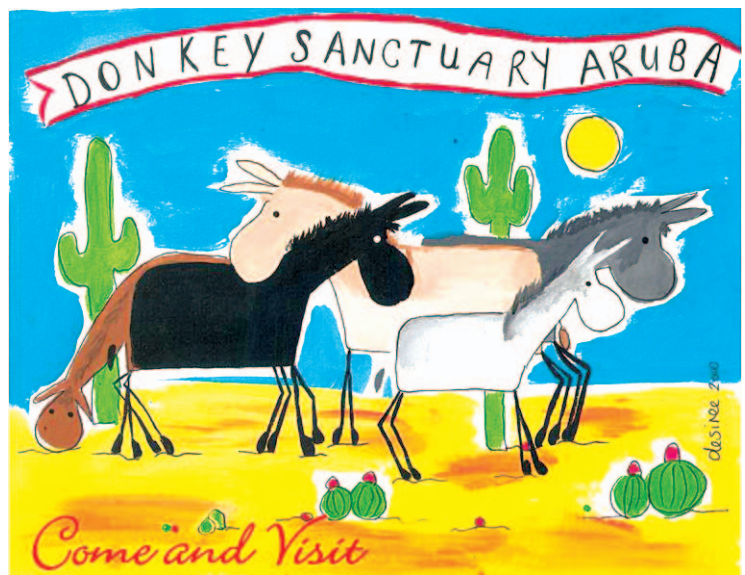


# Joseph & Rose DiMaggio honored at the Playa Linda Resort



PALM BEACH - Recently at the Playa Linda Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes at the Playa Linda Resort, where they call their home away from home. Joseph & Rose DiMaggio were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after coming to Aruba for more then 23 years.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with Joseph & Rose and trainee from Playa Linda Resort. □





## HUMAN HINTS

# Loss and The Now Moment

In the physical realm, we place a great deal of focus on endings and beginnings. When faced with loss, it is natural to forget that life is a circle. These are the most important times to remember that there is no beginning or ending to life. It is a continuous cycle of transformation.

We all exist in a Now moment, which is constantly transforming the future into the past. The Now Moment is literally the constant transformation of potential life (the future) into death (the past). The passing of Time can be thought of as a continuous birth/death moment.

In ancient Chinese medicine, the Circle of Life is depicted as a progression and balance between five natural elements. The element Water represents both birth and death. Birth and Death represent the same point in the Circle of Life. A beginning and an ending are two sides of the same coin. In the realm of separation, there cannot be one without the other. Birth and Death are the same energy, at the same point in time.

When you are faced with loss, remember that there cannot be an ending without a beginning of equal magnitude. The beginning often takes a while to show up, because we get stuck in the past and can't release old energy to make room for the new. The sooner we release the past, the sooner we become available to Infinite Potential of the future.

Typically we wait for something new to come along before we release the past, but that is avoiding your self. When we let go of the past before something new comes along, we have a moment to reflect on where we've come and where we'd like to go. Between the past and future (in every now moment), we can look at ourselves from an undistorted perspective, and get a sense of who we really are.

Infinite potential is always there, but when we release our past we become open to it. When we're not bogged down in the past, we are able to see the opportunities around us. When we don't feel guilty, we have the courage to act on the opportunities we see.

Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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## De Nederlandsche Bank (DNB) and the Dutch Ministry of Finance are jointly responsible for the introduction of the Dollar



*Continued from Page A7*

### THE BENEFITS

The Netherlands Antillean guilder (NAf) has been pegged to the dollar at a fixed exchange rate (NAf 1.79=\$1) since 1971. The dollar offers two important benefits compared to the guilder. Firstly, the licence fee of 1% on payments overseas will no longer apply. Secondly, there will be no more inconvenience of having two currencies (the dollar and the guilder) in circulation. The United States has no objection to the dollar being used as legal tender by other countries.

### AVOID THE QUEUES

It would be sensible to put any cash savings in guilders into a bank account before the introduction of the dollar. Not only is this more secure.

### FROM NAF TO THE DOLLAR

The Dutch Antilles will cease to exist in the near future. For Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, this also means that the Netherlands Antillean guilder (NAf) will disappear. The three islands have decided together with the Netherlands that the dollar will become the new currency. From 1 January 2011, the American dollar will become the official currency on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba.

### WHY THE DOLLAR?

The most important starting point in deciding on the new currency was to take into account the consequences for tourism and trade. For this reason, it made less sense to opt for the euro, the currency used in the European Netherlands. The majority of imports

into and exports out of Bonaire and the Windward Islands come from or go to countries that use the dollar, or a currency pegged to the dollar.

Most tourists also come from the dollar region.

The majority of countries and overseas territories in the Caribbean use the dollar, or a currency pegged to and efficient, you will also avoid the long queues in January 2011. If you have large quantities of coins at home, we recommend that you exchange these at the bank before the end of the year, or spend them. This will help you avoid long waiting times in shops and banks during the first few weeks of 2011.

### KEEP AN EYE ON PRICES

The dollar is already in widespread use on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Many citizens and businesses are already confident using it. The island territories, in proper consultation with business owners, will take measures to ensure that the arrival of the dollar does not lead to large price increases. These will include the obligation to display double prices (in dollars and in guilders) and regular publication of price comparisons. However it would be sensible, particularly in the period shortly following introduction of the dollar, to keep an eye on prices.

### HOW CAN I RECOGNISE FORGED DOLLARS?

The website [www.dnb.nl](http://www.dnb.nl) provides information about the introduction of the dollar. It also shows you what features genuine dollar bills must display. If you are given forged dollars, you must report this to your local police. □





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# Understanding the Wall St-Washington Relationship

WASHINGTON, DC – President Obama has tapped Gene Sperling to replace Larry Summers as director of the National Economic Council, The New York Times’ Michael D. Shear reports, and it’s a pick that most find unsurprising but some find unsettling. Sperling is certainly qualified for the job, having held the job under President Clinton and currently serving as a counselor to the Treasury Department. But there are a few other items on his resume with which some take issue: working for Goldman Sachs, pulling in \$70,000 a month.

Sperling’s work for Goldman involved organizing a charity to give business training for 10,000 women in developing nations not exactly the devious subprime plotting the firm’s name conjures nowadays. And he was paid a lot less than most former White House officials who head to New York. So many are defending Sperling’s Wall Street experience as unavoidable, even helpful for understanding the economy. But does Sperling’s career epitomize the unholy revolving door between Washington and Wall Street? Some say yes.

Goldman Wanted Something in Return, The Washington Post’s Ezra Klein writes. Sperling’s work for Goldman was mostly charitable, “but in some ways, that makes the transaction more peculiar: You tend not to get paid that much for offering guidance to charitable endeavors. It is very hard to believe that Goldman Sachs wasn’t attempting to buy influence with a politically savvy economist who had good relations--and would later go to work for the incoming Democratic administration.”

He’s the Best Progressives Can Hope for, Mother Jones’s David Corn writes. Under Clinton, Sperling worked on many liberal causes, including maintaining child labor laws abroad, the earned income tax credit, Head Start, debt relief, and strengthening Social Security. “Sperling is hardly a Wall Street insider. After the Clinton administration ended in 2001, Sperling spoke to several ‘wise men’ about what he should do next.” They all told him to cash in while he waited out the Bush administration. “Instead, Sperling devoted most of his time to addressing the challenge of global poverty, particularly promoting the need for basic education in developing nations,” though, “Sperling didn’t don a sack cloth and follow the example of Mother Teresa.” When Goldman asked for help on the charity, Sperling just “requested that he be paid what the investment firm might pay a top lawyer or dealmaker.” “Fairly or not, he’s become associated with Wall Street but he never went Wall Street. He’s been more interested in making policy than in making mega-money.” Sure, there are more liberal candidates, but “with Summers as the benchmark, a Sperling appointment, for progressives, would be a step in a better direction.”

Enough with the ‘Main Street Puritanism’ Slate’s Jacob Weisberg argues. That way of thinking “epitomizes the ethical confusion that has grown up around public service in the

wake of the financial crisis.” Selling influence to lobbyists is wrong, and letting future employment prospects shade your government service is wrong. But Sperling didn’t do those things. “Now when your big cause is an issue like women’s economic empowerment, and Goldman Sachs comes calling with \$100 million to spend on it, with a nice salary for you into the bargain, you can say: A) No way will I help you spend your money, you dirty capitalist bastards; B) I will help you, but only if you don’t overpay me like one of your own; or C) sounds good to me, Lloyd. There are crazed purists who might choose option A, saints who might choose B, but please cast your stones after you tell me that your answer would not have been, like Sperling’s, C.”

We Need to Keep Perspective, Weisberg continues. “I suppose that in a perfect world, officials would be members of a flagellant order, coming to Washington from their monastic cells and reaffirming their vows of poverty afterward. But that wouldn’t work, either, because economic policymakers would have no feel for markets, business, or life in the real world. We should demand ethical behavior, not public servants untainted by money or any effort to make it.” No You Need Perspective, Feliz Salmon writes at Reuters to those defending hte Sperling pick. [I]t’s fascinating to see how Corn reports on the institutionalization of the revolving door between Wall Street and Washington, to the point where taking \$887,727 from Goldman Sachs is positively self-abnegatory.” Salmon writes. The revolving door, contra Weisberg, is not a good thing.

It’s worth pushing back against this notion that earning a seven-figure sum on Wall Street automatically gives you a feel for markets and business--or even that in order to have a feel for markets and business, you have to earn a seven-figure sum on Wall Street. Neither is true. Advising Goldman Sachs on setting up a charitable foundation might teach people a lot about how to navigate the internal politics of Goldman Sachs, but that’s about it. And while there are certainly many highly-remunerated bankers who do know a lot about markets and business, there are equally many who don’t. Wall Street jobs tend to be hyper-specialized: a detailed knowledge of, say, the custody trail in reverse repo transactions is highly unlikely to give you any insight into the state of the US economy. But He’s Known as a Man of the People! The New Republic’s Noam Scheiber writes. If you’ve spent much time talking to Treasury officials over the past two years, you’ve probably heard them joke that Gene Sperling, a counselor to Secretary Tim Geithner, is the department’s in-house populist. What makes this funny (insofar as wonk humor can be funny) is that Sperling isn’t exactly your classic pitch-fork wielder. He was director of Bill Clinton’s National Economic Council (NEC) in the late ‘90s, a period when the White House got pretty good marks for its understanding of business and the broader economy. □

## How \$2 Billion Monday Night Football Will Affect Fans

WASHINGTON, DC – Sports network ESPN may soon up the fee it pays the National Football League to broadcast Monday Night Football to as much as \$2 billion per year for the next decade, Sports Business Daily reports. The current NFL-ESPN deal, worth \$1.1 billion, is set to expire after the 2013 season. As part of the negotiations, the network is hoping to secure the right to broadcast over broadband networks and stream games onto mobile devices as part of its “TV Everywhere” campaign. Negotiations are taking place as owners and players prepare for a possible lockout in March, when the league’s current collective bargaining agreement expires. What lessons for football fans can we draw from MNF’s record-high price tag?

This Comes At Awkward Time for NFL, explains Matthew Futterman at The Wall Street Journal. The deal would highlight “the health and power of the league at a time when owners are threatening a lockout “because they claim the league is facing economic turmoil,” he notes. He adds that while every network broadcasting NFL games has experienced record ratings this past season, the league says its ticket sales have stayed flat.

In DVR Era, Live NFL Games Command Higher Premium, states Kit Eaton at Fast Company: “ESPN is forking over some 70% more per annum because the NFL is increasingly aware of how valuable its content is, particularly in the digital broadcast era where TV content is increasingly diluted across different platforms.”

Many Downsides for Fans, claims Jon C. Ogg at 24/7 Wall St: “Suddenly, the players’ agents will ask for even more money. It can drive up the costs of cable stations in packages. If the gouging by this amount is true, then we might as well expect game tickets to become even more exclusionary for Joe Public. Food and drinks at the game will probably go up again too. The way price hikes tend to work is in unison, even if it takes a season or two to catch up.”

Could Deal ‘Prevent an NFL Lockout?’ asks Kurt Badenhausen at Forbes.

Owners want a bigger piece of the revenue pie while players want to maintain their current share which ranges from 50-60% based on how you define revenue. The player’s union has to love seeing TV contract extensions at huge increases. It gives less credence to the owners’ position that they can not make things work under the NFL’s current financial structure. It illustrates the dominant position the NFL holds on the current TV



# Kerry: Darfur integral to better U.S.-Sudan ties

SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Kerry said Friday Sudan's northern government will win quick U.S. incentives if an independence referendum in the south goes smoothly, but further improvement of ties depends on progress toward peace in the separate conflict in Darfur.

Kerry, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, is in Sudan ahead of the critical referendum on independence for southern Sudan. The vote is a key element of a 2005 peace agreement that ended the 21-year civil war between the Arab-dominated north and the mainly Christian, animist south. Some 2 million people were killed in the conflict.

Kerry said he has seen a positive shift in the Khartoum government's approach toward the Jan. 9 referendum, which is expected to see the oil-rich south split off from the north into an independent country.

"They deserve credit for making the decision to follow through and deliver on the (peace agreement)," Kerry said. "I think there has been a constructive change there and

we need to follow from there."

But Kerry, on his fourth visit to Sudan, said resolving the war in the western Darfur region remains an important "matrix" in a U.S. incentives package to the Khartoum government.

He said if the referendum goes smoothly and the north accepts the results, Obama is prepared to "immediately" initiate the process to remove Sudan from the list of states sponsoring terrorism, which Khartoum has been on since 1993. Kerry called the move a confidence building measure. Relations between Sudan and the U.S. have soured since President Omar al-Bashir's government came to power in 1989. The U.S. imposed economic, trade and financial sanctions against Sudan in 1997, and added new ones in 2007 because of the Darfur conflict. President Obama renewed the economic sanctions in a letter to Congress in November, a requirement by law every year.

Kerry said lifting economic sanctions would require progress toward a peace deal in Darfur.

"Darfur remains a very critical issue and center of our focus and I went there today to



In this photo released by UNAMID, U.S. Sen. John Kerry speaks to displaced persons in Shangil Tobayi village Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, where they were forced to flee to by recent clashes between government forces and rebel groups, in north Darfur, Sudan. Kerry says Khartoum will win quick U.S. incentives if an independence referendum in the south goes smoothly, but further improvement of ties depends on progress toward peace in the separate conflict in Darfur.

purposely link the future of Sudan to our ability to resolve what happens in Darfur," he said.

Kerry visited Shangil Tobayi, a village in northern Darfur Friday, where thousands of newly displaced fled to from recently renewed violence. He said he hoped the referendum process and the international focus on Sudan will give impetus to a new push toward

making peace in Darfur.

On a previous trip to Sudan in November, Kerry shared with the Khartoum government a letter from President Barack Obama laying out the way forward for a gradual improvement of relations with Washington.

He revealed details publicly from the letter for the first time on Friday.

"This is an integrated process

*Associated Press*

and as the president has laid out, Darfur is one of the elements of consideration but the (peace) agreements are very critical," he said.

Outstanding issues following the southern referendum that still need to be resolved before the peace agreement expires in July this year include border disputes and citizenship rights as well as oil revenue sharing, he said. □

## Haitian migrants hide as DR pursues deportations

EZEQUIEL ABIU LOPEZ

Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — Many Haitians were in hiding or staying in their homes in the Dominican Republic on Friday amid an immigration crackdown fueled by cholera fears that has seen more than 1,000 Haitians sent home. Human rights groups have denounced the deportations, which Dominican officials say are needed to prevent the flow of illegal immigrants since last year's earthquake and to stop the spread of cholera, which has killed more than 3,000 people in Haiti and sickened nearly 150 in the Dominican Republic.

Soldiers and immigration officials set up surprise checkpoints this week along highways leading into the Dominican capital of Santo Domingo, asking people aboard public buses and vans for their papers. Those without them are sent back to the border.

Late Friday afternoon, authorities were still targeting illegal immigrants.

Ginel Sama, 25, was escorted off a bus when it stopped at a tollbooth.

"I have children and my wife," he said briefly before

being whisked away. "I had a visa, but it expired some eight months ago."

Carlos Batista, a Dominican of Haitian descent, was aboard another bus that immigration officials searched.

"I think this is very wrong because they take away a lot of them with their small children and send them to Haiti," he said.

Frankie Espil is a Haitian migrant who owes six months' rent and has two young children to feed, but he prefers to stay at home than take several public buses to his longtime construction job. The 30-year-old fears he will join the more than 1,000 Haitian migrants deported this week.

"We're all scared here," Espil said. "We heard they're going to start coming into our homes."

On Friday, Amnesty International asked the Dominican government to step up efforts to help its earthquake-shattered neighbor instead of forcing people back to what it called a desperate situation.

"Any Haitian suspected of cholera should be given adequate medical treatment and not be deported," senior adviser Javier Zuniga said. "Returning people is condemning them to a situation where their health and security would be at great risk."

Fritz Cineas, Haiti's ambassador in the Dominican Republic, said he recognized the country's right to deport illegal immigrants but asked that their rights be respected.

"Allow those who have children to tell their families goodbye, and be careful not to deport Haitians who have school-age children," he said.

The Dominican Republic agreed in a 1999 bilateral protocol to allow deportees to gather their belongings and not be separated from their families. The country also agreed to halt deportations after nightfall and on weekends.

Officials also are issuing \$270 fines to bus drivers caught with illegal migrants and seizing their vehicle, with 25 confiscated as of noon Friday.

The drivers, in turn, said they are fighting back.

"We have decided not to let any Haitians aboard," said Antonio Marte, leader of the National Transportation Confederation, the country's largest bus drivers' union, which owns 74,000 buses.

Human rights groups fear Dominican officials will soon try other tactics to round up Haitian migrants. "Neighborhood raids are next," said Gloria Amezcua, with the Jesuit Refugee and Migration Service. □



# Pakistan government averts collapse after concessions

By ASHRAF KHAN

Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Pakistan's U.S.-allied ruling party avoided the collapse of its government Friday after its reversal of unpopular economic reforms helped persuade a key ally not to defect to the opposition. But the economic concessions could cost Islamabad billions in international loans badly needed to stabilize its shaky economy.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement announced it would remain a member of the ruling coalition after a pomp-filled visit to its Karachi headquarters by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani. Without the MQM's 25 seats, Gilani's Pakistan People's Party would fall short of the 172 seats needed for a parliamentary majority. The political crisis had threatened to distract Pakistan's government from its counterterrorism alliance with the U.S. Some analysts had suggested that Pakistan's powerful army could use the political discord as a reason to counter U.S. pressure to crack down more on Al-Qaida and Taliban militants along the border with Afghanistan. The MQM's decision to rejoin the coalition came a day after Gilani said the



Pakistani Prime Minister Raza Yousuf Gilani, gestures to members of Pakistan's Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) during a meeting in Karachi, Pakistan, Friday, Jan. 7, 2011.

Associated Press

government would reverse unpopular fuel price hikes that partly prompted the party's defection. The premier said Friday that the government also would postpone a new tax system meant to raise more revenue.

"Our unity will benefit both the country and the national interest," Gilani said. "We can steer the country out of this storm."

Senior MQM leader Raza Haroon said his party agreed to rejoin the government for the sake of democracy and

the country's well-being. The party quit the coalition on Sunday, citing anger over the government's decision to raise fuel prices up to 9 percent on New Year's Eve and its failure to combat corruption.

Some observers have said the MQM may have defected to force concessions that would increase its power in its main stronghold of Karachi, a sprawling port city of more than 16 million that is Pakistan's main economic hub. It was unclear Friday if the People's Party agreed to

anything on that front.

The MQM may have also taken up the mantle of populist anger over unpopular economic measures to improve its performance in the next set of parliamentary elections, which are scheduled for 2013 but could be called earlier.

Although the MQM rejoined the coalition, Haroon said it would hold off on reinstalling its Cabinet ministers, possibly to retain some leverage.

The move to reduce fuel prices and push back tax reform

will deepen the country's deficit, which could lead the International Monetary Fund to withhold billions of dollars in loans desperately needed to stabilize the shaky economy. IMF spokeswoman Caroline Atkinson criticized the fuel price decision Thursday, saying Pakistan needed to reduce its spending on energy subsidies.

"They're inefficient and untargeted so that the bulk ... of the benefit from the energy subsidy goes to higher-income individuals and large companies," Atkinson said.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also criticized the decision, calling it "a mistake to reverse the progress that was being made to provide a stronger economic base for Pakistan."

The U.S. has pledged billions of dollars in civilian aid to bolster Pakistan's economy, but Clinton has said repeatedly that the country must reform its tax system to increase the amount of revenue it is generating domestically.

Even though the government survived the recent political crisis, it is severely weakened and will have a harder time getting its agenda through in the two years remaining in its term, said independent analyst and columnist Mosharraf Zaidi. □

## EU diplomat: Visit of Iran nukes is job for IAEA

PABLO GORONDI

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — The European Union's foreign policy chief thanked Iran for inviting other countries to visit its nuclear facilities but said that should be done by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency.

Catherine Ashton's Friday comment appeared to indicate the EU will reject Iran's offer.

"The inspection of nuclear sites is the job for the IAEA," she said at a news conference. "We will be welcoming the fact that Iran is interested in having those visit at the sites, but the role and responsibility for doing that rests with the IAEA."

Iran has denied claims by other nations that its nuclear program is aimed at producing weapons. But its refusal to cooperate with an IAEA probe into suspicions that it experimented with components of a nuclear weapons program has heightened international concerns.

Meir Dagan, Israel's outgoing spy chief, was quoted by an Israeli newspaper on Friday as saying that Iran's nuclear program has been delayed and

predicting that the country will not have a nuclear weapon before 2015.

Iran recently invited Hungary, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency, and several other countries including Russia, China and Cuba but not the U.S., to tour its nuclear sites, suggesting Jan. 15-16 for the trip.

Ashton, visiting Budapest with the rest of the EU's executive commission, said Iran was one of the subjects she discussed with Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Martonyi, particularly the talks Iran is tentatively scheduled to hold Jan. 20-21 in Turkey with the U.S., Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany.

Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's nuclear department, said Friday the invitation was aimed at greater transparency.

"On the eve of talks ... and as a gesture of goodwill, we have announced time and again that representatives of certain international communities and a number of countries can inspect Iran's nuclear installations," Salehi told the official IRNA news agency in Tehran.

Talks in December in Geneva between Iran and these countries ended with agreement on little else but to meet again.

The Istanbul meeting aims to explore whether there is common ground for more substantive talks on Iran's nuclear program, which is seen by the U.S. and its allies as a cover for secret plans to make nuclear arms. Iran says its uranium enrichment and other programs are meant for peaceful purposes only, to generate fuel for a future network of nuclear reactors.

Speaking to reporters in Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said they look forward to the next round of talks in Istanbul.

"We and our partners are committed to pragmatic efforts to resolve the international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear program, but we are equally committed to holding Iran accountable to its international obligations and will continue to focus on this until Iran demonstrates through tangible steps that it is prepared to resolve international concerns," Crowley said. □



# North Korea again proposes talks with South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea – North Korea on Saturday reiterated a proposal for unconditional talks with South Korea to ease tensions on the divided peninsula.

The North's latest offer comes days after South Korea dismissed earlier calls by Pyongyang for negotiations. Tensions between the two sides escalated after a North Korean artillery barrage on a South Korean-held island near their disputed maritime border killed four South Koreans in November.

The attack — the first on a civilian area since the 1950-53 Korean War — occurred in waters not far from where a North Korean torpedo allegedly brought down a South Korean warship eight months earlier. That attack killed 46 sailors. Pyongyang has denied responsibility.

“We do not want to see the present South Korean authorities pass the five-

year term of their office idly without North-South dialogue,” the North's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement, carried by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

“There is neither conditionality in the North's proposal for dialogue nor need to cast any doubt about its real intention.” Unification Ministry Chun Hae-sung said South Korea will review the latest offer, noting North Korea has not sent an official request for talks. He did not give any further details.

The North this week called for unconditional and early talks with South Korea. Seoul dismissed the offer and urged the North to show it has changed through actions, not words.

North Korea's sudden willingness to talk fits a well-established and — for diplomats engaged in the



A South Korea's AH-1S Cobra helicopter fires rockets during the Army Aviation Shooting Match in Yangpyoung, South Korea, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011. North Korea called for “unconditional and early” talks with rival South Korea to put an end to months of tensions. Seoul quickly dismissed the offer as insincere and said it's waiting for an apology for two deadly attacks blamed on Pyongyang.

*Associated Press*

often tortuous negotiations in the past — tiresome pattern. Pyongyang, the complaint goes, creates a crisis and, when panic and fear envelope Seoul, Washington and Tokyo,

then offers the possibility of negotiations to win badly needed food, fuel and other aid.

Washington and Seoul have been vague about what they

want from the North to restart talks. The U.S. has indicated an openness to a resumption but is urging the North to demonstrate a “seriousness of purpose.” □

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# Chile says it recognizes a Palestinian statehood

EVA VERGARA

Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Chile recognized Palestinian statehood on Friday, joining other South American nations in a push for Palestinians and Israelis to keep negotiating toward a lasting peace in the Middle East. Foreign Minister Alfredo Moreno says Chile is following U.N. resolutions with its decision to recognize the existence of the state of Palestine as “a free, independent and sovereign state, coexisting in peace with the State of Israel.” Chile’s decision follows a meeting in Brazil between Chilean President Sebastian Pinera and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who has been lobbying his counterparts to show their support. Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and Ecuador recognized Palestinian

statehood last month, and Uruguay and Paraguay are expected to join them in the coming weeks. Chile, whose Palestinian population of about 400,000 is among the largest outside the Arab world, also had been lobbied intensely by Israeli representatives. About 100 other countries have recognized statehood—most after Palestinians declared “independence” in 1988, and a few others, mostly former Soviet republics, did so after the 1993 Oslo peace accords. In recent years, Venezuela (2005) and Costa Rica (2008) also provided recognition. Israeli officials have reacted to the declarations by calling them meaningless and counterproductive to the peacemaking process. Palestinian Foreign Minister Riad Malki recently told The Associated Press that the aim is to persuade more

countries to endorse the 1967 boundaries, before Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. “We are making efforts so that the rest of the countries will first recognize a Palestinian state in the ‘67 borders and secondly raise the level of Palestinian diplomatic representation to that of an embassy,” he told the AP. But Chile’s only mention of borders Friday came in support of Israel, noting that Chile “has completely supported the right of the state of Israel to exist within secure and internationally recognized frontiers.” Recognizing pre-1967 borders for a Palestinian state could undermine Chile’s own position in a dispute over its maritime border with Peru, now before the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Chile maintains that



Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff, right, shakes hands with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas during a meeting at the Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. Rousseff was sworn in as Brazil’s first female president Saturday.

Associated Press

the border was established by treaty after an 1879 war in which Chile seized a large slice of southern Peru and left Bolivia landlocked, and should not now be changed. The government’s resolution also noted that both Jewish and Palestinian communities have been key to Chile’s

social, cultural, political and economic development for many years, working in harmony that should serve as a model for their both the Israeli and Palestinian states. It’s a message that Pinera plans to make personally during a visit to the Middle East in March. □

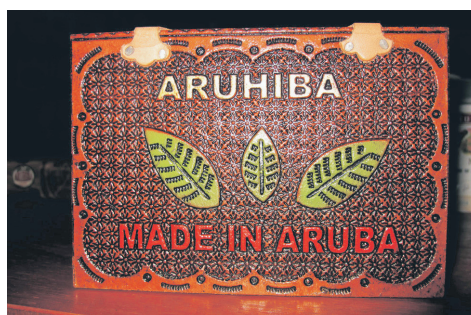
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cigars and you will get 1 FREE cigar of \$35. Located at the Historic Dutch Windmill. Open from Monday to Saturday from 9am till 8:30pm. And open on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. At the Tamarijn Hotel open on Monday till Saturday 12pm to 8pm. And on Sunday from 9am to 1pm. Aruhiba is only available in above mentioned stores. Visit our authentic tobacco farm where cigars are handmade.



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# Harbaugh stays in Bay Area as 49ers new coach

Stanford football head coach Jim Harbaugh answers questions during a coach's new conference in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011. Stanford plays Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl NCAA college football game on Jan. 3, 2010.

Associated Press  
Page B3



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### DAVYDENKO REACHES QATAR FINALS



World number one tennis player Rafael Nadal from Spain during their semifinal match against Nikolay Davydenko of Russia at the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Jan. 7, 2011. Davydenko won the match.

Associated Press  
Page B8

### Calm day for leaders in PGA opener

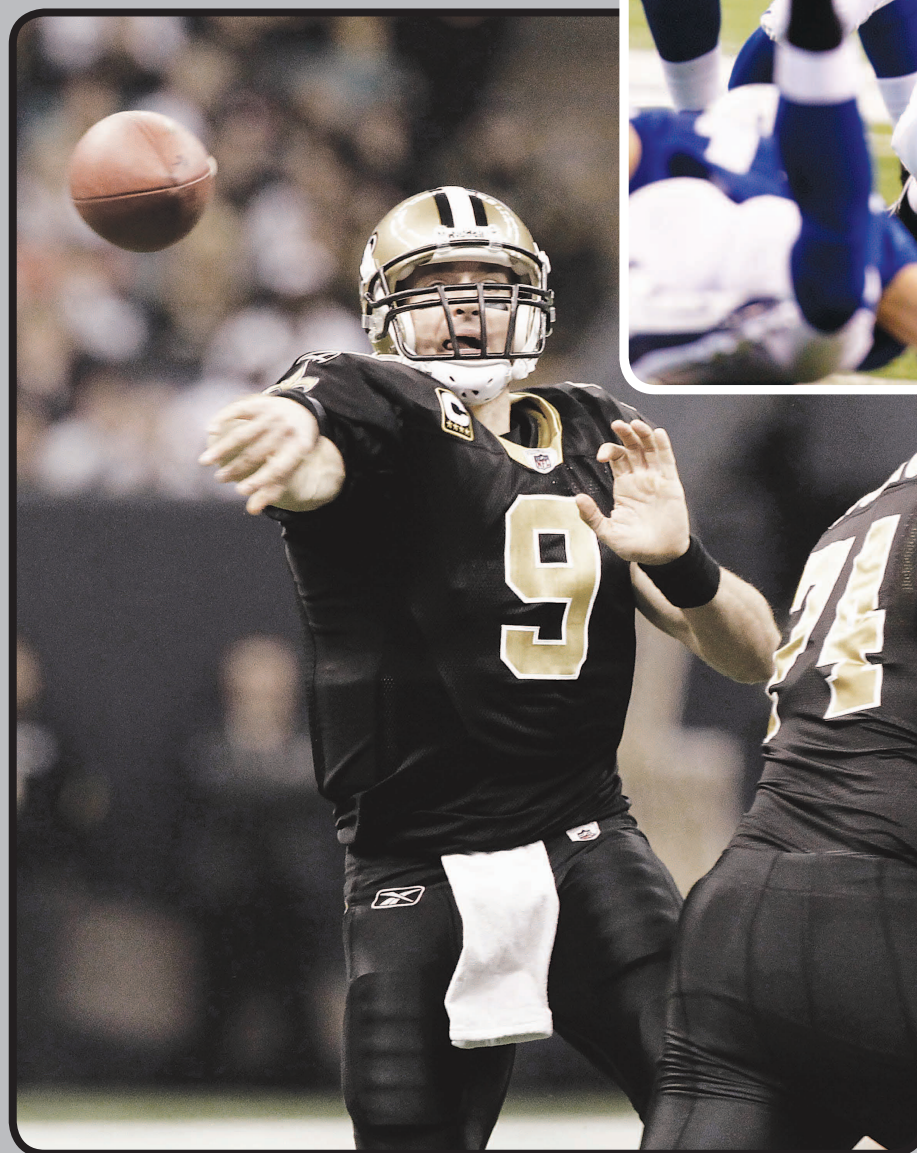
DOUG FERGUSON,  
AP Golf Writer

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Jonathan Byrd and Carl Pettersson didn't miss a beat in the U.S. PGA Tour opener, both enjoying the views and surprisingly calm conditions in the Tournament of Champions to share the lead at 7-under 66 after Thursday's first round.

Continued on Next Page

## ROAD TO SUPER BOWL

Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) is chased by Tennessee Titans defensive end Marques Douglas in the first quarter of an NFL football game in Indianapolis, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.



## BEGINS HERE

New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) passes during the first half of an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press

NFL Preview  
Page B7



# Miami (Ohio) tops MTSU 35-21 in GoDaddy.com Bowl

DAVID BRANDT

AP Sports Writer

MOBILE, Alabama (AP) — Austin Boucher threw for 289 yards and two touchdowns in only his fourth career start as Miami of Ohio capped a historic turnaround season with a 35-21 win over Middle Tennessee in the GoDaddy.com Bowl on Thursday. The RedHawks (10-4) are the first team in Football Bowl Subdivision history to win 10 games one season after losing 10. Miami finished a dismal 1-11 in 2009, but recovered to win the Mid-American Conference title and finish this season on a six-game winning streak.

MTSU (6-7) won three games in a row to become bowl eligible, but was hurt by five turnovers.

Miami's Dayonne Nunley was responsible for two of them, recovering a fumble and returning an interception 52 yards for a touchdown. Thomas Merriweather rushed for 100 yards and two touchdowns.

MTSU's Dwight Dasher threw four interceptions — all in the second half.

It was a sweet ending for the RedHawks, especially considering there was plenty of adversity along the way.

Miami played its first bowl since 2004 without coach Mike Haywood, who accepted the head coaching job at Pittsburgh in December. Haywood has since been fired after being arrested on a felony domestic violence charge.

On Monday, a magistrate entered a not guilty plea for Haywood.

Lance Guidry, Miami's defensive backs coach the past two seasons, served as interim head coach.

The RedHawks also lost starting quarterback Zac Dysert to a lacerated spleen in November, but Boucher kept the offense going. He wasn't perfect, throwing two interceptions, but completed 22 of 35 passes, including several clutch throws to keep drives alive.

Thomas Merriweather



Miami of Ohio coach Lance Guidry is hoisted by his players following a 35-21 win over Middle Tennessee in the GoDaddy.Com Bowl NCAA college football game at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala., Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011.

Associated Press

rushed for 100 yards and two touchdowns. Nick Harwell caught seven passes for 86 yards and a touchdown. Miami outgained MTSU, 416-370. MTSU's Dasher was stellar in the first half, accounting for 158 total yards, including

a 49-yard touchdown run late in the first quarter that gave the Blue Raiders a short-lived 14-7 lead.

But he struggled in the second half, throwing four interceptions. Dasher threw for 162 yards and rushed for 90

yards and a touchdown while Phillip Tanner rushed for 87 yards and two touchdowns. Miami took the lead for good late in the third quarter, when Boucher hit Chris Givens for a 17-yard touchdown pass, pushing the score to 28-21. □



Carl Pettersson of Sweden gestures after making a par putt on the 17th hole during the first round of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions golf tournament in Kapalua, Hawaii on Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011. Pettersson is tied for the lead with Jonathan Byrd after shooting a 7-under-par 66.

Associated Press

## PGA OPENER

Continued from Page B1

However, that wasn't the case for others: two-time defending champion Geoff Ogilvy had to withdraw with 12 stitches in his right finger, making him the first defending champ in 50 years to miss the winners-only event.

Fellow Australian Stuart Appleby was missing his putter. It wasn't in the bag

when he showed up Thursday morning, and he sent caddie Scott Sajtinac to a nearby golf shop to get the closest he could find. With the price tag still glued to the shaft, Appleby opened with a 69.

Jim Furyk was missing a playing partner when Ogilvy withdrew, so he brought along Scott Carroll as a marker. The popular head pro at Kapalua got the loudest ovation of

anyone on the first tee. Above all, the Plantation Course was missing its notorious wind, which allowed for a gentle start to the PGA Tour season.

"It's quite an adjustment going out there with no wind," Byrd said.

It was Byrd's first tournament since he qualified for the Tournament of Champions by winning in Las Vegas with the best finish of the year, a hole-in-one in a three-man playoff. After making five birdies on the front nine, Byrd holed out another shot. This was only a wedge from 111 yards that caught the grain perfectly and rolled sideways about 4 feet and into the cup.

"From there on, got a little shaky," Byrd said. "I didn't play great for about a three- or four-hole stretch."

Ben Crane was a stroke behind the leaders. He played bogey-free in the calm, overcast conditions with the sun trying to break through the clouds but never quite succeeding. Furyk, one of only three players to have won at Kapalua still in the field, also got off to a quick start before he stalled

and had to settle for a 5-under 68, leaving him tied with Bill Haas and Charley Hoffman.

Joining Appleby in the group at 69 was Anthony Kim, determined to plot his way through each round at each tournament, and doing a pretty good job of it except for the par-3 eighth. He chose a 4-iron, then changed his shot at the top of his swing and pulled it into the high weeds to take a double bogey.

"All of a sudden, I decided to try to make birdie — from 215 yards away," Kim said. "Mental error. I committed to every shot I hit today except for that one."

Bubba Watson hit the longest tee shot on the 18th during a long drive competition Wednesday, and his driver again was the key club on the finishing hole Thursday — only this one was a driver off the fairway, setting up a 10-foot eagle putt for a 70.

The conditions were so serene that a dozen players shot in the 60s, and only two players failed to break par. One of them was Rocco Mediate, who made the turn in 41 and shot 79. The other was Justin

Rose at 75.

Ernie Els, who set the tournament record in 2003 with a 31-under 261, opened with back-to-back bogeys and rallied to get back into the game until a three-putt bogey on the final hole for a 1-under 72.

Pettersson qualified by winning the Canadian Open, but he wasn't satisfied with the way his year ended. Instead of shutting it down when he returned from the HSBC Champions in China, he went to work. Pettersson spent the last two months playing golf just about every day, whether that meant practicing for one hour or five hours, playing with buddies in North Carolina or taking golf trips to Florida. "Probably worked harder on my game this offseason than I've done any other offseason," he said.

The course can play a little longer without wind. Pettersson usually hits a 6-iron into the 554-yard 17th hole, which is downhill with the trade wind typically helping. He had to hammer a hybrid Thursday, an example of how different Kapalua felt. □



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# Jim Harbaugh hired as coach of 49ers

**JANIE McCAULEY**  
 AP Sports Writer  
 SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Declaring it a “perfect competitive opportunity,” Jim Harbaugh accepted the job as coach of the 49ers and said his goal is to win a Lombardi Trophy for “one of the legendary franchises in all of football.”

The successful Stanford coach gets to remain in the Bay Area, moving to the NFL after four years with the Cardinal. A longtime NFL quarterback, he replaces fired coach Mike Singletary. ESPN reported Harbaugh’s deal is for \$25 million over five years.

Harbaugh decided to make the jump to the pros even though San Francisco has missed the playoffs for eight straight seasons and Orange Bowl MVP quarterback Andrew Luck decided to remain at Stanford for another season.

“I can feel the enthusiasm coursing through my veins right now,” Harbaugh said. “I accept this competitive challenge willingly.”

The Cardinal (12-1) finished with a school-record 12 wins following a 40-12 victory over Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl.

Harbaugh, though, has long admired the late Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh, one of his mentors, and how

Walsh made the successful leap from Stanford to the 49ers.

Now, he must turn around a once-proud franchise that is desperate to become a contender again right away.

The 49ers were expected to win the NFC West this season, then began 0-5 for their worst start since losing seven straight to begin a 2-14 season in 1979 — Walsh’s first year as coach.

The 49ers finished 6-10 this year — in the chase for a playoff berth in the NFL’s worst division until the second-to-last week — and haven’t had a winning season since their last trip to the playoffs in 2002.

Harbaugh likely will be grooming a new quarterback in the coming months. Alex Smith, the 2005 No. 1 overall draft pick out of Utah, becomes a free agent. So, finding a QB is high on the team’s to-do list heading into what should be a busy offseason.

Once the season begins, Harbaugh will face a familiar foe — big brother John Harbaugh, coach of the Baltimore Ravens.

Niners team president and CEO Jed York said

when Singletary was fired that money would be no object in finding the team’s next coach. He promoted vice president of player personnel Trent Baalke to general manager earlier this week, then they worked together to make their push for Harbaugh, who also was in talks with the Miami Dolphins and Stanford.

The 47-year-old Harbaugh went 58-27 overall as a college coach and 29-21 in four seasons at Stanford. He took over a 1-11 team when he was hired in December 2006 and quickly turned the program back into a winner and bowl contender.

The Cardinal went 4-8 in his first season, 5-7 the next, then improved to 8-5 and earned a Sun Bowl berth in 2009 — the school’s first bowl appearance since 2001.

When Stanford arrived back on campus Tuesday, one man hollered “Stay in the Bay Area!” when Harbaugh hopped off the bus carrying his 2-year-old daughter, Addison. He also has a newborn baby girl.

Harbaugh was the Oakland Raiders’ quarterbacks coach from 2002-03 before



Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh arrives at the Stanford University campus with his daughter, Addison, as Stanford women’s basketball coach Tara VanDerveer, right, looks on in Stanford, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011, the day after Stanford defeated Virginia Tech in the Orange Bowl NCAA college football game.

Associated Press

spending three seasons as head coach at the University of San Diego.

Harbaugh, a college star at Michigan where there also is a coaching vacancy after the firing of Rich Rodriguez, played 15 seasons in the NFL for

the Bears, Colts, Ravens, Chargers and Panthers. A first-round draft pick taken 26th overall by Chicago in 1987, Harbaugh completed 2,305 of 3,918 passes for 26,288 career yards and 129 touchdowns in the NFL. He also ran for 18 TDs. □



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<b>NO PROBLEM</b> daily: 8:30 <b>PG-13</b> matinee: <b>PG-13</b> late show:	

**SP** = subtítulos en Español

**Matinee: sat - sun | Late show: fri & sat**



## NHL Roundup

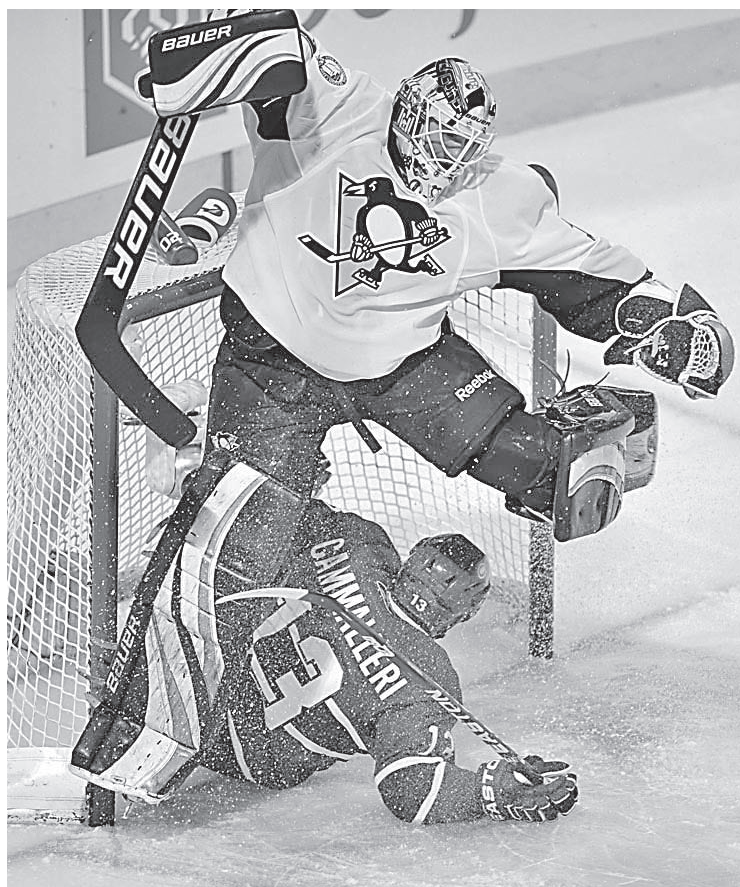
# Canadiens beat Crosby-less Penguins 2-1

MONTREAL (AP) — Benoit Pouliot scored on Montreal's fifth shootout attempt to give the Canadiens a 2-1 win over a Pittsburgh Penguins team missing injured captain Sidney Crosby in the NHL on Thursday.

Carey Price, who made 31 saves through overtime, was unpassable in the shootout. He denied four Penguins before stopping Chris Kunitz on Pittsburgh's final attempt. Pouliot deked Brent Johnson and let the puck slide into the right side of the net as Montreal won in its first shootout of the season. He also scored the tying goal in the second period.

Arron Asham scored in the first period for Pittsburgh. Crosby, who leads the NHL with 32 goals and 66 points, missed his first game of the season because of an undisclosed upper body injury.

In Denver, back-up goalie Jason LaBarbera made 34 saves for his second shutout in three starts as Phoenix beat



**Pittsburgh Penguins goalie Brent Johnson leaps to avoid Montreal Canadiens' Mike Cammalleri during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011, in Montreal. The Canadiens won 2-1 in a shootout.**

Colorado.

The Coyotes were without goalie Ilya Bryzgalov, who

missed the game because of a family medical issue. LaBarbera filled in and

*Associated Press*

clamped down on the NHL's fourth-highest scoring team. Taylor Pyatt scored both Phoenix goals, the second an empty-netter.

In Los Angeles, Nashville fought back to beat Los Angeles and notch a fourth straight win.

Patric Hornqvist scored two goals, Colin Wilson and Sergei Kostitsyn both had a goal and two assists, and Marek Svatos scored his first goal for the Predators.

Los Angeles slid to its season-worst fifth straight loss despite second-period goals to rookie Kyle Clifford and Jarret Stoll.

In San Jose, coach Lindy Ruff brought up his 500th career victory as Buffalo beat San Jose.

Ruff became the 16th NHL coach with 500 wins and joined Montreal's Toe Blake as the only ones in the club who got all their wins with one team.

Ruff reached the milestone in convincing fashion as Buffalo got goals from Luke

Adam and Jochen Hecht in the first period and then stellar goaltending from Ryan Miller.

Thomas Vanek scored his team-leading 16th goal for the Sabres.

In Boston, Minnesota extended its record of never having lost at Boston.

Cal Clutterbuck scored the go-ahead goal on a giveaway from Marc Savard in the Bruins zone.

Martin Havlat also had a fluky goal for the Wild, converting four seconds into a power play. Clutterbuck also assisted on Mikko Koivu's empty-netter with 43 seconds left.

The Bruins were 0 for 4 with a man advantage and have never scored a power-play goal against Minnesota.

Steven Kampfer scored for Boston.

In Toronto, the hosts bounced back from blowing a three-goal lead to defeat St. Louis in a shootout.

Tyler Bozak beat Ty Conklin with a wrist shot for the decisive score, but the highlight of the shootout was the move by teammate Mikhail Grabovski, who made a 360-degree turn while cutting across the top of the crease and tucked the puck into the net.

The Maple Leafs seemed to be in control when Phil Kessel's second goal of the game early in the third period made it 5-2. But the Blues clawed back with a goal by Brad Winchester that was confirmed by video review. Eric Brewer's point shot found an opening to make it 5-4, and Matt D'Agostini completed the comeback when he was sent in alone and scored with a backhand deke. Grabovski, Versteeg and Colby Armstrong had scored earlier for the Maple Leafs.

**In other NHL games it was Toronto 6, St. Louis 5, SO; Montreal 2, Pittsburgh 1, SO; Minnesota 3, Boston 1; Philadelphia 4, New Jersey 2; Phoenix 2, Colorado 0; Edmonton 2, N.Y. Islanders 1; Nashville 5, Los Angeles 2; and Buffalo 3, San Jose 0.** □

## NBA Roundup

# Thunder beat undermanned Mavericks

DALLAS (AP) — The Oklahoma City Thunder took advantage of Dirk Nowitzki's continued absence to beat the Dallas Mavericks 99-95 in the NBA on Thursday.

Kevin Durant scored 28 points while Russell Westbrook had 15 points and nine assists for the Thunder.

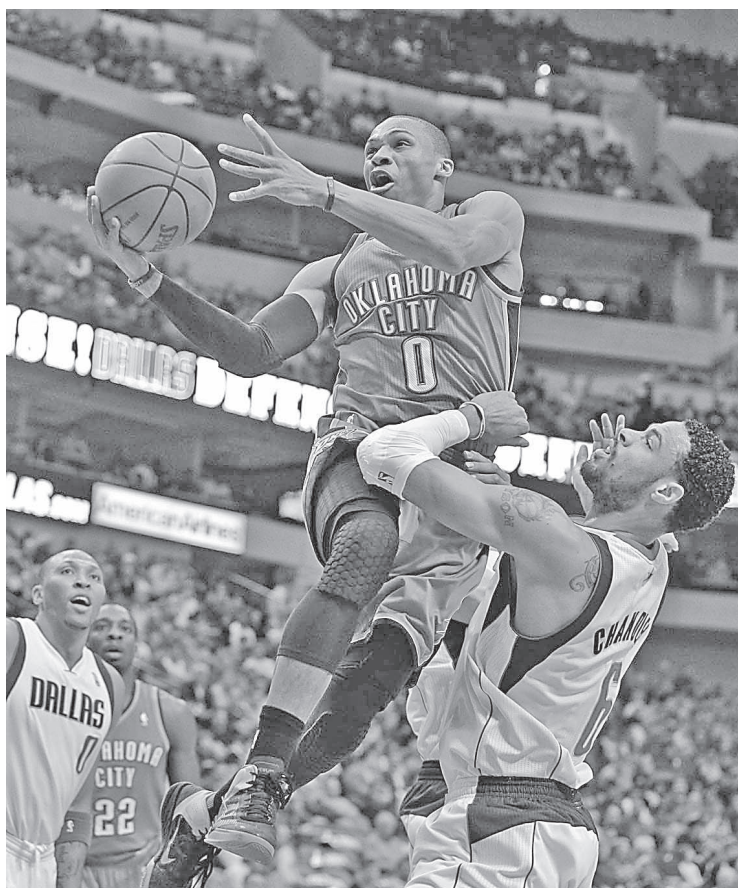
Shawn Marion had a season-high 25 points for the Mavericks, who were without top scorer Nowitzki for a career-longest sixth straight game with a sprained knee.

Nowitzki is day-to-day and there had been speculation that he might try to play against the Thunder. The nine-time All-Star, averaging 24.1 points, has been shooting at practices. Dallas also is missing No. 3 scorer Caron Butler, out for the season after tearing a tendon in his right knee.

**Kings 122, Nuggets 102**

In Sacramento, Tyreke Evans had 27 points and a season-high 12 assists for Sacramento in the win over Denver.

The Kings had a 23-2 run midway through the second half to build a 21-point lead in their highest-scoring game of the season. They shot 56 percent and gave coach Paul Westphal his



**Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook leaps past Dallas Mavericks center Tyson Chandler (6) for a shot in the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Jan. 6, 2011, in Dallas.**

*Associated Press*

300th career victory.

DeMarcus Cousins added 20 points for the Kings.

Carmelo Anthony had 26 points for the Nuggets, who committed 23 turnovers. □



# Ravens LB Lewis stoked for another Super Bowl run

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Maryland (AP) — Ray Lewis knows there won't be many more chances to win another Super Bowl, so he's attached a sense of urgency to this year's NFL playoffs.

Baltimore opens the postseason at the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday, but the Ravens linebacker began talking championship with his teammates when New Orleans came to town last month.

The night before the Ravens faced the defending Super Bowl champion Saints, he gave an impassioned speech to his teammates, stressing the importance of dedication and sacrifice.

"When New Orleans was coming here, they are still defending champs until somebody else touches that confetti," Lewis said this week. "That's what I tried to get my young guys to clue in on. We watched them win a Super Bowl against the Colts last year. Do you want to feel that? Because I do — again."

For Lewis, that's the only reason to play the game.

His 12 Pro Bowl invitations and two defensive player of the year awards are meaningless next to the Super Bowl ring he earned a decade ago with Baltimore. Now in his 15th season, the 35-year-old Lewis wants to make each play, each down count.

"I've watched some of the greatest warriors come in this business and leave this business without a ring," Lewis said.

"When you get that, the thing that waters your mouth is to feel that again. So when you find yourself back here, the message starts to become simple: What will you sacrifice for your team? What will you give up for that ultimate prize?"

Sounds like another speech brewing. And if Lewis does decide to address the Ravens before they face the Chiefs, there is no doubt that his teammates will heed every word.

"It's huge to have a guy like him on the team, someone who knows what it takes to do something that's darn near impossible," linebacker Terrell Suggs said. "There's only going to

be one champion at the end of the year, and he's done it before. A couple of years in the past we've had chances to win it but we've come up short. He can pinpoint exactly why we came up short."

Lewis understands how difficult a task it is to win a Super Bowl title. This will be the sixth time since their lone Super Bowl appearance that the Ravens have been in the playoffs, and each of the previous five ended in disappointment.

Lewis intends to rectify that shortcoming in the weeks ahead.

"We're back in the dance a third (consecutive) year. I say finish. Finish now. Because we've done everything else," he said. "We've been to the AFC championship, we've been to the divisional round, we've done everything we're supposed to do. What's next for us? What's next is finish."

Lewis has been the leader of this team for 15 years, but his dozen Pro Bowl invitations are proof that he's more than just a voice in the huddle and locker room. He leads the Ravens



Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis celebrates after the Ravens defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 13-7 in an NFL football game in Baltimore, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011.

Associated Press

with 145 tackles, has two interceptions, two sacks, should prove instrumental in Baltimore's bid to go deep into the playoffs. □





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# Peyton Manning's numbers defy perception of 'down' season



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning responds to a question during a news conference in Indianapolis, Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011. The Colts are scheduled to host the New York Jets in a playoff game on Saturday, Jan. 8.

**MICHAEL MAROT**

**AP Sports Writer**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)**

— Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning has heard it all this season.

It's a "down" year. Age is catching up to him. Something must have caused the worst slump of his NFL career.

Turns out, it was all image. While his quarterback rating

was down, Manning still completed more than 66 percent of his passes, still threw for 4,700 yards and still threw 33 touchdown passes.

"The numbers speak for themselves, and I think anytime you have a guy throw for 4,700 yards and 33 touchdowns, any team would take that," left tackle Charlie Johnson said. "It just

shows how productive he's been."

In some ways, Manning has been so good over the years that he's a victim of his own success.

Most want to compare Manning's usually impeccable seasons against one another, and using that standard, Manning may never top his record-setting 2004 — 49 touchdown passes and 4,557 yards, numbers that would have gone even higher had Manning not left games early several times that season.

This season, Manning has posted some of the best numbers of his career.

He had career-highs in attempts (679) and yards. His 33 TDs match his second-highest total in a season, and it's the second time he's ever topped 30 TDs in consecutive seasons. Manning's completion percentage (66.3), while down from 2009's 68.8, still ranks above his career

average of 64.9.

And despite throwing 11 interceptions in three games earlier this season, Manning threw 17 picks — one more than he did last season when he won his fourth MVP Award.

"Somebody was asking 'Did you all have a team meeting or did you try to help other guys?'" Manning said, describing how he broke out of the slump. "I was trying to help myself. I thought before I started trying to help other guys do their jobs, I needed to be sure I'm doing my job. I didn't think I was doing my job well enough. I was determined to play better." Since then, he's thrown nine touchdowns, two interceptions and gone 4-0. But what's most impressive is how Manning has done it. He had virtually no running game for the first 12 weeks and lost tight end Dallas Clark, his favorite outlet receiver, with a season-ending wrist injury on Oct.

17. Slot receiver Austin Collie has missed most of the last nine games, meaning Manning has had to rely on unheralded guys such as Jacob Tamme and Blair White to do most of the damage.

So Manning adapted.

He threw shorter, quicker passes, which resulted in a noticeable drop in his average per attempt — from 7.68 over his first 12 seasons to 6.92 in 2010.

But the overall results were essentially the same. Manning led the Colts to their seventh AFC South title in eight years, tied the NFL record with a ninth consecutive playoff berth and set up a Saturday wild-card showdown with the New York Jets. "I wish it would be a huge factor," Jets coach Rex Ryan said when asked whether the loss of Clark and Collie had an impact on the Colts. "But with Peyton Manning back there, he just throws it to the open guy." □

## Titans keep Jeff Fisher for 17th season

**By TERESA M. WALKER**

**AP Sports Writer**

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Bud Adams has thought it over, and the Tennessee Titans' owner has decided he isn't ready just yet to part with Jeff Fisher.

"Jeff has meant a great deal to this franchise and we have reached some incredible heights under his leadership," Adams said in a statement Friday.

Adams also thanked fans for their patience over the past week while he decided on the team's future.

"Obviously, I have very high expectations for our football team and want to deliver a championship to our fans," the 88-year-old owner said. "Jeff understands this and shares my expectations. The results of his leadership have been some very good football teams and I believe he will get us back to an elite level."

The decision comes two days after Adams agreed the Titans needed to part with Vince Young five seasons after

he ordered the quarterback drafted. Young was 30-17, not counting his lone playoff loss, but he told off Fisher in front of the team after suffering a season-ending injury Nov. 21. "There wasn't any hesitancy of waiting till the 25th hour," Titans linebacker Will Witherspoon said. "There's plenty of time for things to be done. I think Vince has a very bright future ahead of him. I'm just sorry I didn't get a chance to see him grow into the quarterback I think he can be." Adams' decision means Fisher, the NFL's longest-tenured coach, will be back for a 17th season. Fisher wasn't available to comment because he was traveling to Arizona to watch his son Trent play for Auburn in the BCS championship game. But he said in a statement that he and Adams had a good talk about the team.

"Clearly I am pleased with the news today. Presenting Mr. Adams with his first Lombardi Trophy is still the objective and I will continue to work for

that goal," Fisher said.

Witherspoon said he signed with the Titans last March because of Fisher and how the coach understands the game inside out, upside down, beyond the X's and O's.

"The other side of it is he understands the players' perspective," Witherspoon said. "He understands how to approach it, and I think the better part about it is he's consistent. He understands there's ebbs and flows, but at the same time he knows how to approach that and say, 'OK guys get your feet back on the ground. We're going for round two, the next snap.'"

Fisher is under contract for 2011 for \$6.5 million, but changes to his coaching staff are expected as part of his return for another season.

His Titans slumped from a 5-2 start to a 6-10 finish, losing eight of their final nine. Fisher promoted Chuck Cecil to defensive coordinator two seasons ago, and the defense improved only two slots this season in two key categories:



Tennessee Titans head coach Jeff Fisher speaks with reporters at the team's practice facility on Monday, Jan. 3, 2011, in Nashville, Tenn. The Titans' playoff hopes that came with a 5-2 start in the season disappeared with injuries to quarterback Vince Young and eight losses in their final nine games.

total yards allowed (26th) and against the pass (29th).

"I have been the one who has made the staff changes since I really took over," Fisher said Monday when asked if he was willing to shake up his staff. "So if there is changes, those changes will be made by me. I have a pretty good idea of what needs to be done if in fact we do need to make changes."

*Associated Press*

Adams has stuck with Fisher about three times longer than any other coach he has had since founding the franchise in 1959 and moving to Tennessee in 1997. Fisher has coached 273 games for the team, which is more games than any coach has with one franchise except for six Hall of Famers: George Halas, Tom Landry, Don Shula, Chuck Noll, Curly Lambeau and Bud Grant. □



# Saints, Colts need long road back to Super Bowl



Seattle Seahawks' Kentwan Balmer, left, congratulates teammate Will Herring, right, after an interception against the St. Louis Rams in the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 2, 2011, in Seattle; and Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick (7) scrambles under pressure from Minnesota Vikings defensive tackle Kevin Williams (93) in the first half of an NFL football game Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010, in Philadelphia.



*Associated Press*

**BARRY WILNER,**  
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A year after dominating their conferences on the way to a classic Super Bowl matchup, the New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts are in NFL wild-card playoffs this weekend. That hardly means a title rematch is impossible.

Last season, the pair enjoyed first-round byes before reaching the Super Bowl, where the Saints won 31-17.

This time they'll have to take the long road to Cowboys Stadium, which will host the Super Bowl on Feb. 6.

On Saturday, the Saints travel to Seattle, where they will be hefty favorites against the Seahawks. The Colts will host the New York Jets in their first meeting since the AFC title game last January, when the Colts rallied from a halftime deficit to win 30-17.

On Sunday, the Kansas City Chiefs host the Baltimore Ravens, and the Philadelphia Eagles meet the Green Bay Packers.

Off this week are AFC top seeds New England and Pittsburgh, and NFC top seeds Atlanta and Chicago.

The only apparent mismatch this weekend is in Seattle, which should launch strong offseason talk about revamping the playoffs so an 11-5 team (Saints) doesn't have to travel more than halfway across the country to face a 7-9 club (Seahawks).

The Saints don't see a mismatch, however, and they have never won a playoff game away from their Superdome.

"The players understand that we've got to play our best football, especially when you get into the postseason, and certainly we appreciate and respect any team we're playing," Saints coach

Sean Payton said. "So going on the road into a very tough environment in the postseason I think is clearly something that has their attention and their focus."

Seattle might focus more than ever on shutting down the passing game because the Saints, who beat them 34-19 in November, lost top running backs Pierre Thomas and rookie Chris Ivory to injury. That leaves Reggie Bush as the main back.

Last week, the Seahawks shut down the St. Louis Rams' 1,000-yard back, Steven Jackson, to become the first division winner with a losing record in league history. New Orleans, whose 384 points are 95 more than the Rams managed, is a different kind of foe.

"You've got to be up for the challenge," Seattle safety Lawyer Milloy said. "They set the standard for offense."

Neither the Colts nor Jets are much like the teams that met a year ago.

New York has more offensive weapons, yet its running game is unpredictable. The dominant defense from 2009 has disappeared minus a relevant pass rush.

The Jets have to blitz to get to quarterbacks, a dangerous way to live, especially against the guy who throws the ball for Indy.

"What separates Peyton (Manning) is his smartness, his accuracy, and he can throw any ball," Jets cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "He puts the ball where defensive backs can't get them. Some low, some off the back shoulder on the fade. He's spent years doing that."

Manning has spent nine straight years leading the Colts into the playoffs, tying an NFL record. He's won four MVP awards in that span.

Still, this is one of the most inconsistent teams Manning has led, although the Colts won their

last four to capture the AFC South division, doing so with several key players sidelined.

While Eagles vs. Packers is not exactly a matchup of the premier unstoppable offense against impenetrable defense, it's close enough. The Packers also can score, particularly when quarterback Aaron Rodgers is healthy, as he is. Their receiving corps, led by Greg Jennings and Donald Driver, can be as dangerous as the Eagles' outstanding corps of DeSean Jackson, Jeremy Maclin, Jason Avant and Brent Celek.

Still, it's expected to come down to controlling Eagles passer Michael Vick, who threw for 175 yards and a touchdown and ran for 103 yards in the second half of the season-opening 27-20 loss to the Packers.

"It's a test," Packers defensive star Charles Woodson said. "They've got weapons all over the place. They've put up a lot of points this year, so we've just got to do a good job of not letting Vick get some big gains. So if we put a stop to that, we'll fare pretty well."

The Baltimore Ravens, winners of three road playoff games in the last two years, aren't fretting about travelling to Kansas City.

"We've been to the AFC championship, we've been to the divisional round, we've done everything we're supposed to do. What's next for us? What's next is finish," Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis said.

To do that, they first must handle the Chiefs, who are inexperienced in such situations, but have a strong running game, an improving passing attack, and some playmakers on defense.

But the Chiefs come off a weak finale against Oakland.

"We've been able to bounce back all year," Chiefs quarterback Matt Cassel said. "That helps give us confidence." □



## Sepp Blatter endorses playing 2022 World Cup in winter

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — FIFA president Sepp Blatter made his strongest endorsement yet of moving the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to winter, saying Friday that the players should be spared from the blistering summer heat in the desert nation.

Blatter, attending the Asian Cup in Qatar, said he felt the tournament should be moved to a cooler time of the year to protect the health of the players. A similar move was initiated for this year's Asian Cup, which normally is held in the summer.

"We must play at the most adequate period to have a successful World Cup," Blatter said. "To have a successful World Cup, we have to protect actors, the players, which means (playing) in winter."

Qatar was awarded the 2022 World Cup in December despite fears that temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) pose a serious health risk to players and fans. Soon after it won the bid over the United



**FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter, gestures during a press conference for the FIFA Club World Cup at Zayed sport city stadium, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in this Dec. 17, 2010 file photo. FIFA president said Friday Jan. 7, 2011 he expects the 2022 World Cup in Qatar will be held in winter to avoid the blistering heat in the desert nation.**

*Associated Press*

States, Australia, South Korea and Japan, several top football executives led by FIFA executive committee member Franz Beckenbauer and UEFA President Michel Platini endorsed the move.

The only opposition to the move thus far has been Europe's big clubs, which fear a winter World Cup would throw their league schedules into chaos. Among those that have come out are the heads of AC Milan and Barcelona. □

## Carlos Sainz wins 6th stage of Dakar Rally

ARICA, Chile (AP) — Carlos Sainz won the sixth stage of the Dakar Rally Friday, extending his overall lead as the grueling race passes through the Atacama desert to the Chile-Peru border. Sainz, the defending champion in the cars category, guided his Volkswagen to victory in 4 hours, 53 minutes, 53 seconds. Teammate Nasser Al-Attiyah was 9 seconds back with Giniel de Villiers 9:49 behind. In the overall standings, Sainz is 2:42 up on Al-Attiyah and 14:15 ahead of Stephane Peterhansel.

In bikes, Ruben Faria on a KTM won the stage in 5:37:27. Helder Rodrigues was 50 seconds back and Cyril Despres trailed by 3:54. Marc Coma, who finished the stage fourth, kept his overall lead. He is 8:48 ahead of Despres and 22:12 in front of Francisco Lopez Contardo.

The long, dusty stage pushed drivers to the limits with Saturday's rest day sure to be welcome.

Peterhansel in a BMW was gaining on Sainz at the midway point, but then had navigational problems and was halted four times by tire punctures. "We only had three spare wheels, so we had to stop regularly to inflate that last wheel," said Peterhansel, who has won Dakar nine times. "We paid for our setbacks quite heavily today. It's a bad news before the rest day."

There were similar problems on the bike side.

"Honestly, it's a miracle I finished," said Despres, whose KTM had engine problems. □



**Nikolay Davydenko of Russia celebrates as he defeats World number one tennis player Rafael Nadal from Spain during their semifinal match at the Qatar ATP Open Tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, Friday, Jan. 7, 2011.**

*Associated Press*

## Davydenko beats Nadal to reach Qatar Open final

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Defending champion Nikolay Davydenko of Russia on Friday beat a visibly ailing Rafael Nadal of Spain to reach the final of the Qatar Open.

Fourth-seeded Davydenko won 6-3, 6-2 in 84 minutes against an uncharacteristically slow and sluggish Nadal, who had a fever earlier this week.

The Russian, who beat Nadal in last year's final in Doha, now leads the Spaniard 6-4 in head-to-head meetings on the ATP tour. He will look to add to his 20 career titles when he takes on second-ranked Roger Federer of Switzerland in the final on Saturday.

Two-time champion Federer reached the final by beating third-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France 6-3, 7-6 (2) earlier Friday.

Davydenko, 29, beat Federer in the Qatar semifinals last year before going on to win the trophy in the final against Nadal.

"I have surprised myself by reaching the final," Davydenko said. "I did not expect to do this well. I am happy with my tennis but I can improve (my) fitness."

"Today (I) beat Nadal, the No. 1. I don't know, today he feel different. For sure he was not (in) best form. Normally, he's much tougher and plays stronger (than he did today). I don't mean tennis; I mean physically. He was completely tired running, fighting for points," Davydenko said.

Davydenko said playing against Federer will be tough.

"I saw him playing today. It looked as if he didn't want to run and kept going for winners. Obviously, he is playing great. It will be tough. Everyday is a different day and let's see how I wake up tomorrow."

Nadal started brightly and in the third game the Spaniard fired a couple of double-handed shots

from the baseline to go 2-1 up.

Davydenko broke back in the fourth as the top-seeded player started to show signs of fatigue during an error-prone game that included two long returns and a couple of unforced errors.

At 40-all in the eighth game, Davydenko broke Nadal for the second time in the set with two well-placed passing shots from the baseline to go 5-3 up and then held his serve by firing an ace to take the set.

Moments before the start of the second set, a tired-looking Nadal called for medical assistance and said "I don't have my game; I feel much more tired."

When the match resumed, Davydenko broke Nadal in the first game of the second set with two forehand shots from the baseline to keep the pressure on.

In the third game, Davydenko broke the Spaniard for the second time in the set as Nadal regularly sprayed returns wide. Davydenko then opened a 5-0 cushion with another break of the Nadal serve before the Spaniard fought back to secure a break of his own.

The Russian closed out the set 6-2 to win the game.

Federer improved his record to 22-3 in Doha. He won the title in 2005 and '06.

"I have played good tennis this week so whoever I play against, I am sure it will be a good match," the 16-time Grand Slam champion said. "I have played two finals here so I have the experience."

Although the second-seeded Federer was pushed to a tiebreaker in the second set, he said his early first-set break set the tone for the match.

"It was a crucial service break for me. That set me up nicely for the remainder of the match," Federer said. □



# A sea of tablets at CES, but no iPad-killer

LAS VEGAS – It was easier to find a tablet this week in Las Vegas than a taxi.

Rivals determined to prevent Apple Inc from dominating the tablet market the way it did with digital music players unleashed a tidal wave of touchscreen devices at the Consumer Electronics Show.

This year may well produce a viable competitor to Apple's iPad. But CES only served to underscore the challenge they face.

Of the slew of tablets on view at CES, devices from Motorola and Research in Motion were standouts. But none rose to iPad-killer status, analysts said. Some, lazier vendors seemed to use the show as a whiteboard to sketch out half-baked ideas. Rich Beyer, chief executive of Freescale Semiconductor, which makes chips for tablets, said in an interview ahead of CES that Apple's rivals are still testing the market.

"I think a lot of people are hoping that this market is not going to be like Apple and the MP3 market."

Rivals are already playing catch-up, after Apple moved assertively to define the tablet market, sacrificing its precious margin profile to price the iPad at \$500.

There is undoubtedly an opportunity for other tablets,

particularly with different screen sizes and in the corporate market, where Apple has not traditionally been very successful. And the sheer ubiquity of tablets based on Google's Android software makes that the platform that Apple cannot ignore.

The tablet segment is expected to more than triple to 50 million units in 2011, with Apple seen as by far the dominant vendor.

Despite Apple's big head start, no one expects its competitors to stay away. Sony Corp said it hopes to become the world's second-largest vendor of tablet devices by 2012, but failed to show anything.

Paul-Henri Ferrand, head of consumer marketing for Dell, said: "Apple can't expect to have the tablet market to itself."

## CORPORATE DEMAND

A host of manufacturers are producing tablets based on Android, which is free to license. But Android tablets will face the added challenge of not only competing against the iPad, but also one another.

"Android will be a key player in the tablet market but it will be hard for any single vendor to challenge Apple," said Gartner analyst Carolina Milanesi.

Lenovo, LG Electronics and

Asustek Computer were just a few of the companies showing off Android tablets at CES.

Some tablet makers await the next version of Android, known as Honeycomb, expected in the next few months, before moving ahead.

"The key to non-iPad market is a more robust version of Android," said Ujesh Desai, vice president of product marketing for Nvidia, whose fast, dual-core Tegra 2 chips power tablets from Dell and Toshiba.

"With every update that they've come out with, it proves that they're getting better and better," he said.

Microsoft's Windows software is cropping up on a few tablets, but it is not well-suited for the devices.

Kumu Puri, a senior executive with Accenture's consumer electronics practice, said vendors cannot



ignore tablet demand from corporate customers.

"If the traditional computer manufacturers aren't thinking about how this is going to effect their lineup for the enterprise, they might end up holding the bag," she said. Tablets from RIM and Hewlett-Packard will be closely watched precisely because they do not use Android, and may be able to offer users an experience

they cannot get elsewhere.

RIM's 7-inch PlayBook tablet, set to launch in February or March, received positive early reviews after the company offered hands-on demos at CES.

HP is hosting an event in early February where it is expected to show off a tablet running on webOS software, which the company acquired when it bought Palm last year. □

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LOS ANGELES — A former girlfriend of the doctor charged in the death of Michael Jackson testified Friday that he was distracted when he called her on the morning of the singer's death and she heard commotion in the background.

Sade Anding said she realized at one point that Dr. Conrad Murray wasn't paying attention to her. She heard

coughing and mumbling but didn't recognize the voice as Murray, she said.

"I heard commotion as if the phone was in a pocket or something," Anding said.

The testimony added details to a timeline being developed by prosecutors at a preliminary hearing where a judge will decide if there is enough evidence for Murray to stand trial for involuntary

## Jackson doctor got distracted on call

manslaughter. He has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities contend Jackson died after Murray gave him a lethal dose of propofol and other sedatives in the bedroom of his rented mansion then delayed calling 911 while he collected and bagged medications.

Phone records show Murray called Anding at 11:51 a.m. She said she stayed on the line for five to six minutes, but Murray never got back on the phone.

The records indicate 911 was dialed at 12:21 p.m.

Emergency room doctor Dr. Richelle Cooper testified Thursday that she believed Jackson died in his bedroom. Still, he was taken to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical

Center, where more than an hour of resuscitation efforts didn't change her opinion.

Based on what Murray told her, though, she said she didn't know why the singer died.

Cooper said Murray told her he had seen Jackson stop breathing and immediately started CPR, but prosecutors say that's not what happened.

Cooper said Murray never told her he had given propofol to Jackson or mention several other sedatives tests later showed were administered.

Murray's defense attorney, J. Michael Flanagan, asked Cooper if propofol use would be relevant information, since the drug wears off quickly.

Cooper said it wouldn't have changed her efforts to revive Jackson, but knowing

the singer had been given several sedatives and propofol would have added to her understanding of why the singer died.

Cooper said other sedatives could have amplified the effects of the propofol and caused Jackson to stop breathing before his heart stopped beating.

"I would be concerned particularly if there were other medications given, that it would lead to a respiratory arrest, which would lead to a cardiac arrest," Cooper said.

Deputy District Attorney David Walgren has said he will use Murray's statements to police and testimony to show his actions represented "an extreme deviation from the standard of care." □

## Filming ends for Almodovar, Banderas collaboration

MADRID — Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodovar has finished filming his first collaboration in decades with fellow Spaniard and Hollywood actor Antonio Banderas, his producer said on Friday.

"The Skin I Inhabit," described as an intense drama with an eclectic mix of elements typical of Almodovar ranging from film noir to science fiction and terror will hit

Spanish cinema screens in September, production company El Deseo said.

"My films have always been difficult to pigeon-hole regarding genres, because I like to mix them up," the "Volver" director said in a statement.

The low-budget movie, inspired by French writer Thierry Jonquet's 2003 novel "Tarantula," is the first Almodovar offering to star

Antonio Banderas since "Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!" in 1990.

It co-stars Spanish actress Elena Anaya, of "Room in Rome" fame and was filmed around Spain, from the capital Madrid to the northwestern region of Galicia.

Banderas began his acting career under Almodovar's guidance in the 1980s and later gained an international following for Hollywood



blockbusters like "Evita" and "The Mask of Zorro."

Almodovar has won two Academy Awards. He won one Oscar for Best Writing,

Original Screenplay for 2002's "Talk to Her" and an Oscar for

Best Foreign Language Film with 1999's "All About My Mother." □



## Rescued Chile miner tours Graceland as Elvis fan

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Rescued Chilean miner Edison Pena says he was living a dream as he toured the Graceland estate of his late idol, Elvis Presley.

Pena was known to belt out Elvis tunes underground to lift the spirits of 32 other miners while they were trapped for 69 days last year.

On Friday, he toured the Memphis home and grounds that are a magnet for Elvis fans worldwide.

Pena shot video with his cell phone. He occasionally broke into song, including "Hound Dog" and "Blue Suede Shoes." Pena's Graceland tour is part of a five-day visit to Memphis, which has included stops at a practice session of the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies and a stay at the luxurious Peabody Hotel. It's paid for by mostly Memphis-area businesses and tourism groups. □

## Mark Twain remains censored, and uncensored

NEW YORK — Mark Twain was the kind of man who might tell an off-color joke, then grievously apologize, who wrote stories and essays he knew would offend and kept others private for the same reason.

A century after his death, Mark Twain remains censored, and uncensored.

The author and humorist worried enough about what he could

say in public to withhold anti-religion essays and to forbid his autobiography from being published until 100 years after his death. The first of three planned volumes of the unexpurgated version, released in 2010 and including harsh words for American business and military actions, became a surprise best-seller that has sold hundreds of thousands of copies.

But Twain also believed in getting

out the truth. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" angered respectable people when it came out and still stirs a fuss 126 years later. Twain's most famous novel has been paired with "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" in a volume to be published next month by NewSouth Books that replaces the "N-word" an offensive but often-used expression in the 1880s with "slave." □





# Jobs growth disappoints but jobless rate falls

WASHINGTON – Employers hired fewer workers than expected in December and a surprisingly large number of people gave up searching for work, tempering the positive news of a big drop in the unemployment rate.

The disappointing jobs growth figure reported by the Labor Department on Friday suggested the Federal Reserve would likely stay the course with its effort to support the world's biggest economy with the purchase of \$600 billion in government bonds.

The department's survey of non-farm employers showed payrolls increased 103,000 last month, below economists' expectations for 175,000. Private hiring rose 113,000, while government employment fell 10,000.

"What we are seeing is a pace of hiring that is enough to keep us on track, where we stand, which has been a moderate recovery, but not really enough to point to an acceleration from here," said Julia Coronado, a senior economist at BNP Paribas in

New York.

U.S. stocks fell as investors showed their disappointment that the lower jobless rate reflected people leaving the workforce. The safe-haven appeal of bonds caused those prices to rise, while the dollar firmed, continuing a trend of dollar strength against the euro.

Tempering the blow, overall employment for October and November was revised to show 70,000 more job gains than previously reported.

An independent survey this



week had led investors to anticipate sturdy payroll gains in December.

The unemployment rate fell to 9.4 percent, the lowest since May 2009 and down from 9.8 percent in November. It was the biggest monthly drop in the rate since April 1998.

But the survey of households from which the unemployment rate is derived showed the big drop was due to both an increase in employment and a sharp decline in the labor force.

**BERNANKE MORE OPTIMISTIC**

The slow labor market recovery, which is in stark contrast with other sectors of the economy, is unwelcome news for President Barack Obama. High joblessness cost his Democratic Party control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Speaking at a window factory in Landover, Maryland on Friday, Obama said the pace of hiring has picked up. But he said more needed to be done. "We've got a big hole that we're digging ourselves out of. And so our mission has to be to accelerate hiring and to accelerate growth," he said.

Improvements in data on consumer spending, trade and manufacturing, have implied an acceleration in growth momentum.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, in congressional testimony, struck a slightly more optimistic tone than in his last public remarks in early December.

"We have seen increased evidence that a self-sustaining recovery in consumer and business spending may be taking hold," Bernanke told the Senate Budget Committee. But he cautioned that if the economy continued to create jobs "at this pace we're not going to see sustained declines in the unemployment rate."

The economy created an average of 94,000 jobs a month last year, far short of the at least 125,000 jobs needed to keep the jobless rate from rising. A faster pace might be needed now with so many discouraged workers sitting on the sidelines.

As job growth picks up, these workers could re-enter the labor force, keeping upward pressure on the jobless rate.

Data showing a firming in consumer and business demand had led to calls for the U.S. central bank to scale back its widely criticized bond-purchasing program aimed at keeping interest rates low to boost demand.

Some policymakers indicated in December they had a "fairly high" threshold for curtailing the stimulus program. □

## How Ford became Detroit's last man standing

DETROIT – Bill Ford Jr. just can't let the good times roll.

In late December, Ford, 53, was on a family ski vacation in Colorado but found himself unable to put aside dark visions of how too much success could lead to the next crisis for the auto industry.

As Ford Motor Co prepared to close the books on its biggest comeback year for sales and earnings since the 1980s, Ford was talking to friends about the risk of gridlock choking booming urban centers from Sao Paulo to Shanghai -- and potentially choking auto sales, too. "I want us to start thinking now about how we're going to solve it," he said. "Nobody is thinking about it yet in our industry, but it's going to be upon us fast."

The risk of cars literally stacking up in the world's emerging megacities presents a threat to automakers like Ford, which are banking on the fast-growth markets of China, Brazil, India and Russia to make up almost a third of global auto sales this year. That would be up from just 6 percent when Ford took over as Ford chairman in 1999. On the slopes, Ford's friends got an earful. "I think he's thought quite a bit about this,"



former Ebay Chief Executive Meg Whitman told Reuters of her conversation with Ford, a longtime friend, at Telluride, Colorado, where both families have vacation homes.

"Cars are going to be with us forever, but in cities like Shanghai, Beijing and Mumbai what is the ultimate answer here? Because it cannot be that everyone in Shanghai has two cars in the garage," she said.

Of course, any such impediment to surging car sales in emerging markets could be years away. But Bill Ford is determined not to be blindsided or to allow his company to coast back to complacency after a near-death experience and an against-all-odds recovery that has taken its stock up by over 80 percent since end 2009.

"One of the things people say is, 'OK, Ford, you made it this time, but how are you not going to slide back?'" Ford said in an interview with Reuters.

**INSIDE LOOKING OUT**  
In the three decades he has worked at the company his great-grandfather founded, Ford has been known as much as an iconoclast as an industrialist. The ultimate Detroit insider, he still carries an outsider's deep-seated skepticism about the auto industry's accepted wisdom.

Over the years, Ford has also made headlines as an unwavering environmental advocate, an instinctive contrarian and the rare chief executive willing to fire himself in order to save his company as he did in 2006 by hiring Alan Mulally. □



# HEALTH

## Aruba TODAY



### US says too much fluoride in water



ATLANTA — Fluoride in drinking water credited with dramatically cutting cavities and tooth decay may now be too much of a good thing. Getting too much of it causes spots on some kids' teeth. A reported increase in the spotting problem is one reason the federal government will announce Friday it plans to lower the recommended levels for fluoride in water supplies the first such change in nearly 50 years. About 2 out of 5 adolescents have tooth streaking or spottiness because of too much fluoride, a surprising government study found recently. In some extreme cases, teeth can even be pitted by the mineral though many cases are so mild only dentists notice it. The problem is generally considered cosmetic. Health officials note that most communities have fluoride in their water supplies, and toothpaste has it too. Some kids are even given fluoride supplements. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is announcing a proposal to change the recommended fluoride level to 0.7 milligrams per liter of water. And the Environmental Protection Agency will review whether the maximum cutoff of 4 milligrams per liter is too

high. The standard since 1962 has been a range of 0.7 to 1.2 milligrams per liter. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the splotchy tooth condition, fluorosis, is unexpectedly common in kids ages 12 through 15. And it appears to have grown much more common since the 1980s. "One of the things that we're most concerned about is exactly that," said an administration official who was not authorized to speak publicly before the release of the report. The official described the government's plans in an interview with The Associated Press. But there are other concerns, too. A scientific report five years ago said that people who consume a lifetime of too much fluoride an amount over EPA's limit of 4 milligrams can lead to crippling bone abnormalities and brittleness. That and other research issued Friday by the EPA about health effects of fluoride are sure to re-energize groups that still oppose adding it to water supplies. The American Dental Association released a statement applauding the government announcement to change fluoride guidance. Fluoride is a mineral that

exists naturally in water and soil. About 70 years ago, scientists discovered that people whose supplies naturally had more fluoride also had fewer cavities. Some locales have naturally occurring fluoridation levels above 1.2. Today, most public drinking water is fluoridated, especially in larger cities. An estimated 64 percent of Americans drink fluoridated water. Portland, Ore., is one of the largest cities that doesn't fluoridate its water. Bill Zepp of the Oregon Dental Association said the city's anti-fluoridation activists will embrace the recommended fluoride changes "as some type of win." Maryland is the most fluoridated state, with nearly every resident on a fluoridated system. In contrast, only about 11 percent of Hawaii residents are on fluoridated water, according to government statistics. Fluoridation has been fought for decades by people who worried about its effects, including conspiracy theorists who feared it was a plot to make people submissive to government power. Those battles continue. "It's amazing that people have been so convinced that this is an OK thing to do," said Deborah Catrow said Friday. She successfully fought a ballot proposal in 2005 that would have added fluoride to drinking water in Springfield, Ohio. Reducing fluoride would be a good start, but she hopes it will be eliminated altogether from municipal water supplies. Catrow said it was hard standing up to City Hall, the American Dental Association and the state health department. "Anybody who was anti-fluoride was considered crazy at the time," she said. □



### Breast Cancer Outcome: Your Doctor Matters

How doctors choose to treat their breast cancer patients and whether those treatment choices follow established recommendations may play a larger role in whether a cancer returns than experts have believed. In a new analysis looking at 994 women with ductal carcinoma in situ, the most common type of noninvasive breast cancer, researchers found treatment variations from surgeon to surgeon are significant, and may account for up to 30 percent of recurrences. "Treatment variation is a troubling but well-known phenomenon in health care," said study author Andrew W. Dick, a researcher at RAND Corp. in Pittsburgh. The report is published online Jan. 3 and in the Jan. 19 print issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute. "The reason it is surprising in this case is that the variation is quite large, and related to factors that are very important in health outcomes," Dick said. Those factors include having "negative margins" meaning that cancer cells are more than 2 millimeters away from the removed tissue's edge and getting radiation therapy after breast-conserving surgery. The variation by surgeon in treatments accounted for 15 percent to 35 percent of cancer occurring in the opposite breast in the next five years and 13 percent to 30 percent of recurrences over 10 years, the investigators found. The study is well done, said Beth Virnig, a professor of health policy and management at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health and co-director of the Cancer Outcomes and Survivorship Program at the university's Masonic Cancer Center. She co-wrote an editorial to accompany the study. "They basically said, after taking into account all this stuff that matters how big the tumor is, its grade and which treatment it turns out a third of how the patient does is due to their physician," she said. While Virnig is not surprised at the variations in treatments, the amount of variation surprised her. The findings are complex, she said, and so many factors determine outcome that there is no simple way to guarantee a woman has the best possible doctor and treatment. One solution, Virnig said in her editorial, is to develop a kind of scoring system for breast cancer surgeons. But she acknowledges that this may not be feasible. Meanwhile, she suggested that women can boost the odds of getting optimal treatment by asking their surgeon how many procedures the doctor does with more being better, though she can't provide a "good enough" number. □



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# Veteran Astronaut Leaves NASA as Space Shuttle Era's End Looms



The effect was strongest if the series of older faces and subsequent image of a younger face were the same gender, the study showed. □

“She’s one of the more experienced astronauts in the

The agency also lists 14 astronaut “candidates,” who were selected in the summer of 2009 and are currently undergoing a rigorous, two-year training program. Five of these 14 are international

The timing is likely not a coincidence, according to Pearlman. “We saw this type of departure when the Apollo program ended, and it was pretty much expected that the same thing was going to happen with the end of the shuttle program,” Pearlman told SPACE.com. □

[illegible]



# Automakers again tout small cars at Detroit show

DETROIT – A new Prius wagon, a small Ford minivan and a Volkswagen sedan won't be the sexiest cars at the Detroit auto show. But car makers are counting on them being winners this year if more buyers start choosing small size and fuel efficiency over horsepower and heft.

The show, which opens to the public Jan. 15, was known for over-the-top stunts and out-there concept cars in its pre-recession days. In 2006, Chrysler drove a Jeep through a plate-glass window; the following year, a Chinese automaker revealed a concept car with shag carpeting and wheels that ran down its middle. There will still be eye-popping cars on display. Porsche has promised something "spectacular." There will also be some new concepts, such as a Kia crossover with swiveling rear seats and side doors that hinge on the roof, like a DeLorean sports car. But the industry was sobered by the economic crisis, and it's betting buyers were, too, especially with gas prices and U.S. fuel economy standards rising.

There's no guarantee Americans will scale back on size. In fact, after touting downsized cars and electric vehicles at last year's show, the industry saw trucks and SUVs outsell cars during 2010. But conditions are ripe for that trend to reverse. If that happens, Detroit won't be left behind as it was in the 1970s or even three years ago, when gas price spikes allowed small, Japanese-made cars to capture the compact market. General Motors and Ford have stylish, well-made models, such as the new Focus and Cruze. While Toyota and Honda still lead in that area, Detroit is stealing back more of their customers. Car companies rely on big shows in Detroit, Beijing, Geneva and elsewhere to show off new models and test new designs on hundreds of thousands of visitors. The world first saw the Chevrolet Volt, an electric car, at the 2007 Detroit show, for example. It finally went on sale last month.

Other ideas don't pan out. Hydrogen-powered concept cars were all the rage three years ago. None have

reached the market.

Among this year's offerings:

The Prius wagon, Toyota's first entry in a planned family of Prius hybrids.

The 9th generation version of the Honda Civic, one of the top-selling compact cars in the U.S.

The Chevrolet Sonic subcompact, which replaces General Motors' Aveo and brings it more upscale.

The Buick Verano, which is based on the Chevrolet Cruze and will be the smallest car in Buick's lineup.

The Hyundai Veloster, a sporty, two-door coupe that Hyundai estimates will get 40 miles per gallon.

The new Mercedes C-Class, featuring a smaller, four-cylinder engine.

The Ford C-Max, a pint-sized, seven passenger minivan.

The new A6 sedan that Audi says will get at least 25 percent better fuel economy than the outgoing model.

A new, unnamed, midsize car from Volkswagen.

The industry thinks it's making the right bet by focusing on cars, even though pickups and SUVs



captured slightly more of the U.S. market last year, about 50.2 percent. That happened because construction companies and small businesses bought necessary work trucks as the economy sputtered back to life.

"The truck and SUV buyer is more of a need-based buyer. They're coming back to the market first. This year, as the economy improves, there will be more demand on the car side," said Don Esmond, Toyota's senior vice president of U.S. operations. □

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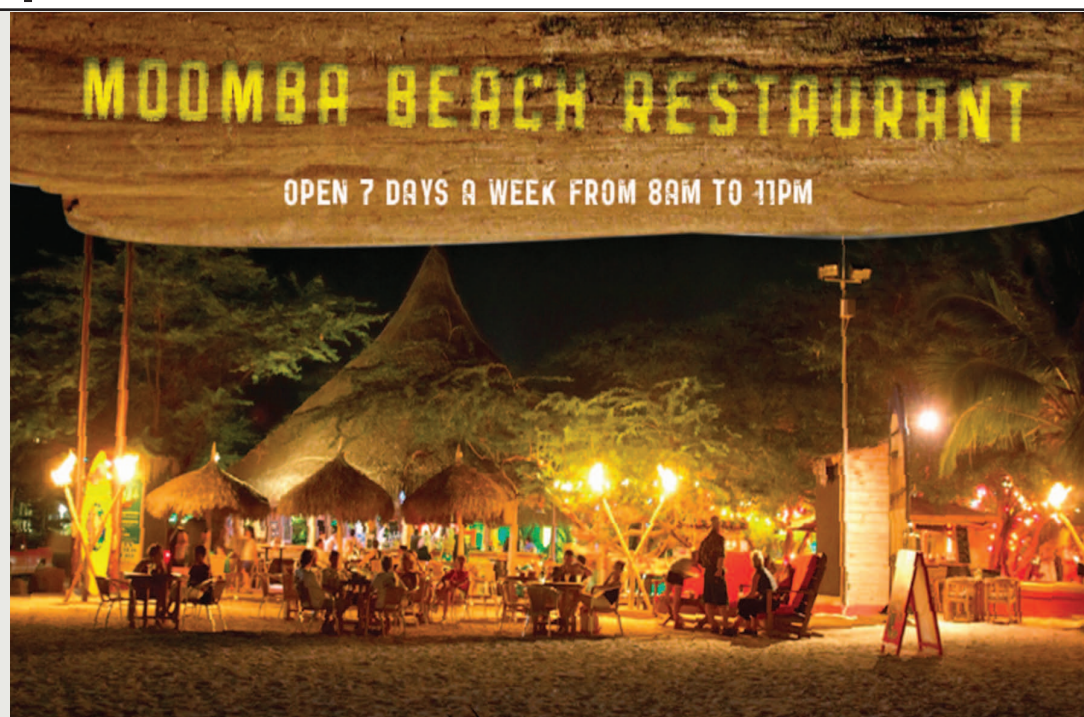
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